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ABSTRACT

This document contains 26 issues (the entire output for the 1990s) of this publication dedicated to the study and preservation of Europe's less spoken languages. Some issues are only in French, and a number are in both French and English. Each issue has articles dealing with minority languages and groups in Europe, with a focus on those in Western, Central, and Southern Europe. (KFT)

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages

CONTACT BULLETIN

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Volumes 7-15 1990 - 1999

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages
Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues

CONTACT BULLETIN

This publication is funded by the Commission of the European Communities
Volume 7 No. 1
SPRING 1990

Study Visits to Brittany and Luxembourg

DIWAN provides Breton medium education for school children at primary school level

Breton, the only Celtic language still spoken on continental Europe, was the subject of a study visit, organized by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, and the Commission of the European Communities, in November 1988. Participants from Ireland, the Occitan Community in Italy, the Germanophone Community in Belgium, Galicia, and Sardinia headed off to Brittany to examine, at close quarters, the linguistic situation of that region.

Reading through participants' reports, it would seem that the DIWAN school movement impressed them most. One participant describes DIWAN as a "revolutionary departure in Breton education".

Set up 14 years ago, DIWAN (seed) provides Breton medium education for school children at primary school level. In a state as centralized as the French state, this is no mean feat, and its progress is indeed to be envied by France's six other linguistic minorities. In 1987, the first second level college operating in Breton, was opened in Brest, thus giving students the opportunity to continue with Breton after primary education.

Participants noted, throughout the population in general, an improvement in goodwill towards the language, but as the visitors' hosts pointed out, goodwill is not enough and practical initiatives such as the above, need to be increased and more funding provided. The opening of these schools, also highlights a shortcoming in another area: that of teacher-training. This is becoming a major problem in Breton education, where pupils show an increased interest in the language, but there are very few places where teachers can train as Breton language teachers.

In the domain of radio and television, participants were brought to the studios of Radio Breizh Izel, a government financed bilingual station. In contrast to the DIWAN school movement, progress here is slow. According to participants' reports, only 1.5 hours, out of a total of 13, are dedicated to the language. On the other hand though, participants were informed that the morning news programme in Breton attracts as many listeners as its French language counterpart.

As regards television, only one and a half hours a week are broadcast in Breton. There is however, a great interest in the media in Brittany, and this was no more evident than in Douarnenez where participants were brought to meet people involved in the Breton film industry. Here dedicated people, under the auspices of Doulaged Breizh (Eyes of Brittany), work on minority interest films and documentaries. Their newsletter, SKRAMM, provides all the latest information on the latest media developments in Brittany. Participants underline in their reports, the major problem of providing films for children.

LUXEMBOURG

Of major contrast to Brittany is the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, where another group of participants visited last year. Luxembourg is an excellent example of a community organized on a multilingual basis, and here participants learned much of the organization of a society whose reality is divided into three languages: French, German and

Study Visit Reports (Contd.)

Letzburgish.

The main difference here, however, between Luxembourg and the other member states of the Community, is that none of those languages can be considered minority languages in this state.

A language act in 1984, lay down clear definitions on the use of Letzburgish. With its high number of immigrants, the Act made it obligatory for immigrants to learn the language, thus reducing the threat from in-migration to Luxembourg's national language.

Participants on this visit were rather impressed and surprised by the fact that there seemed to be no stigma, or prejudice, attached to using any of the three languages of the country. Letzburgish is seen as the language of the home, while French and German are the main languages of education. In fact, it would appear, from reading through these reports, that language in Luxembourg, is simply not a problem.

Much of this visit was taken up with visiting educational institutions, as it is in this domain where participants were given the best picture of Luxembourg's success in mixing its languages. In nursery schools, all education is carried out in Letzburgish, thus facilitating the immersion of children of migrant workers. German is then introduced during the first year of primary school, and gradually becomes the language of instruction. Once into secondary school, both French, and German become the main languages. There is a problem here, in that teachers are unwilling to teach through Letzburgish at this level, due to a lack of textbooks in the language. Probably, as a result of the fact that Letzburgish is only available in nursery school, there are few people who read and write the language, and Letzburgish remains for the most part an oral form of communication, and therefore is seen by many as a dialectal form of Low German.

In addition to this, participants were told of the very small amount of literature in Letzburgish, and the strong feeling in some quarters that the language should not be developed as a written form.

The situation of Letzburgish in public administration is much better, as people are dealt with in the language they use. In other domains, the language is less fortunate: in spite of its status as official language of Luxembourg, it is given less time on radio and television than Welsh in Wales, which is not even an official language of the state. As many people speak Welsh in Wales, as Letzburgish in Luxembourg, but according to participants' reports, only 2.5 hours a week are broadcast on T.V. in the language. In spite of this rather curious situation, participants learned much from their heavy scheduled trip to Luxembourg, and felt there were many areas within their own minorities which could learn a lot from the Luxembourg model.

Other visits organized as part of the 1988-89 study visit programme, included visits to Friesland, Ireland, Scotland, Galicia and the Occitan community in Italy.

D. Breathnach

MERCATOR – A new Information and Documentation centre for the lesser used languages

Following an initiative of the European Parliament, the Commission has been given the responsibility of administering certain activities aimed at safeguarding and promoting the lesser used languages and cultures of the Community. There are approximately 50 million nationals of the European Community who, more or less, regularly speak languages which are not official languages of the Community. (e.g. Breton, Frisian, Gaidhlig, Catalan, Basque, Galician, Friulan, Sarde, etc.)

The Commission supports initiatives which favour the exchange of information and experiences, and also supports the co-funding of certain educational projects (v. CB 6.2). At the same time, the Commission, supports the activities of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

With a view to improving the circulation of information, the Commission has lent its support to the establishment of an Information and Documentation Centre, which would improve the exchange of information on minority languages and cultures, both outside of the minorities, as well as amongst the minorities themselves. At this stage, four centres have been proposed as pilot-centres to mark the beginning of a computerised data bank, and to study ways in which bodies, public or private, from the various regional or minority linguistic communities, can become involved in this initiative, named MERCATOR. The network is open to new centres wishing to take part, as long as they fulfill the conditions of entry.

At this moment in time, the centres are responsible for the following themes: media, institutional and legal affairs, general studies, and education. The Fryske Akademy, one of the four pilot-centres, (the others being: CIEMEN-Barcelona, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and the French Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages), is responsible for the coordination of MERCATOR.

The databank will consist of bibliographical data, a census of institutes and experts, as well as various facts and figures. MERCATOR will need to be able to supply reliable information and to ensure that such information reaches the relevant people, i.e. political and administrative decision-makers, creators, researchers, teachers, journalists and young people. MERCATOR will be in a position to supply a question/answer service and to develop and distribute publications etc.

MERCATOR intends shortly to distribute a brochure to a maximum number of bodies, both public and

Continued next page

IRISH SPEAKERS INCREASE

The recently published figures for the 1986 census in the Republic of Ireland reveal that there are now 1,043,000 people who can speak Irish living in the Republic. This reflects an increase of 24,000 over the figures contained in the 1981 census.

However, the proportion of the population aged 3 and over who indicated that they could speak Irish fell slightly from 31.6% to 31.1% between 1981 and 1986. On an age basis the greatest change was for the 20-24 year group where the percentage of Irish speakers declined for 40% to 36.4%. Although heavy emigration among young well-educated adults would account for part of this decline it must also be regarded as being a worrying indication that the educational system is not as successful as hitherto in producing competent secondary bilinguals. When an independent Irish state was established in what is now the Republic in 1922, the Irish language was at a very advanced stage of decline. Most of the ground regained by the language since then has been due to the efforts of the educational system which requires that all students study Irish as well as English.

There are no census figures available for Northern Ireland. The British authorities have agreed for the first time to include a question on Irish in the 1991 census in Northern Ireland. Such questions are already asked concerning Welsh and Scottish Gaelic.

DÓR

MERCATOR (contd.)

private, throughout the European Community, which will describe the network. The brochure will outline the objectives and functioning methods of MERCATOR, and will invite centres and associations interested in its objectives to make themselves known.

For further information contact: Fryske Akademy, Coulonhus, Doelestrjitte, 8, NL-8911 DX Ljouwert.

NEWS FROM WALES

Recently, in Wales, several victories have been won for the Welsh language. For the first time the Hippocratic Oath has been taken in Welsh and also, for the first time, births in England may be registered bilingually.

The whole issue of birth registration came to the fore when a Welsh mother was forced to cross the border into England to give birth after she had gone into premature labour. She tried to have the birth registered in both English and Welsh (as is possible in Wales) but was refused, as the birth was in England and therefore could be registered in English only.

The mother in question refused to accept this situation and publicly began her campaign to have her baby's birth registered in Welsh by tearing up the English birth certificate in public. Now, for the first time, the Government has announced, in a White Paper, soon to become law, its willingness to allow the births of Welsh babies across the border in England to be registered in both languages, Welsh and English.

Learning Welsh through TV and the Press

Further reports from Wales describe a new development in learning the language through an integrated TV programme for Welsh learners accompanied by a 4 page weekly newspaper. Elen Rhys in a report in WALES ON SUNDAY, writes that an estimated 80,000 adults have gained proficiency in the language but there lacks the opportunity to practice what they have learned. For this reason further initiatives in teaching the language need to be taken.

It is now accepted that for Wales to become a fully fledged bilingual region by the end of the century, English settlers need to be encouraged to learn the language and to send their children to Welsh medium schools. This also applies to Welsh people who do not speak the language. At present there is an increasing demand for bilingual workers but they are difficult to come by. Jobs are available for which Welsh is required, and those without a knowledge of the language must therefore leave and seek work in England. Therefore there is no doubt that learning initiatives such as the above, can help in keeping young people at home and strengthening the language's position.

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OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FOR CATALAN

According to the February edition of **PUNT** (North Catalonian newspaper) the French Government, for the first time, has officially recognised the teaching of Catalan. An agreement has been signed between Catalan schools and the French State, and it would now appear that bilingualism (Catalan/French), and the value and importance of the minority within the State has finally received official recognition. As a result of this latest development, one hopes it will now be easier to seek and obtain financial support for more Catalan-medium schools, classes and teaching aids throughout North Catalonia.

New Video

ARRELS, the North Catalan association responsible for the setting up of Catalan schools and a Catalan radio station back in 1981, has recently produced a 44 minute video on North Catalonia. Pere Manzanares, President of ARRELS, spoke at the launch of the video, and explained that the main aim of this video was to introduce North Catalonia to the general public so that they acquire an insight into the region and its culture. According to reports in the local press, this video is described as being of a technically high standard and excellently produced. 450 copies have been made and these will be distributed to schools, cultural centres, institutions etc. throughout the region. The video was produced with financial assistance from the Commission of the European Communities.

DB

COLABHAIRT EADARNAISEANTA mu ULLACHADH do MHIONCHANAINEAN

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PROVISION FOR MINORITY LANGUAGES

Stornoway 4-6 October 1989

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

Having regard to

– Article 27 of the UN Convention on Civil and Political Rights,

– The Arfé Resolutions of 1981 and 1983 and the Kuijpers Report of 1987 adopted by the European Parliament, and

– The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages adopted by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and endorsed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 1988,

the Conference urges the appropriate agencies at local, regional, state and EC level, to recognise the importance of lesser used languages as an integral part of European linguistic and cultural heritage and urges that the appropriate legislative and financial arrangements be made to enable the 40 million people who speak such languages to retain their linguistic and cultural identity and to play a full part in building European cultural diversity, and

furthermore, the Conference impresses on speakers of lesser used languages, the importance of conveying their needs and aspirations to their elected members of government at local, regional, state and EC level.

THE CONFERENCE MAKES THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:–

1. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

1.1 That appropriate structures be set up in each state of the EC, to facilitate the coordination and exchange of information in relation to educational provision and that the work of these structures be coordinated by an appropriate agency or centre in each state.

1.2 That a complementary structure be put in place at European level under the aegis of EBLUL (European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages).

1.3 That the necessary resources be made available for the aforementioned structures.

1.4 That the EC be requested to appoint a senior official, with specific responsibility for the lesser used languages in Community affairs.

1.5 That similar appointments be made in relevant state departments and other governmental agencies, whose responsibilities affect minority languages, in the fields of education, economic development, social services and broadcasting.

2. EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR GAELIC

SCOTTISH GAELIC AND IRISH

2.1 That support for pre-school provision through the medium of Gaelic and the provision of Gaelic-medium primary units be extended to ensure continuity throughout the primary stages, with provision of information and in close consultation with parents.

2.2 That long-term strategies for developing Gaelic-medium education in secondary schools be considered, in order to respond appropriately to the experience of pupils, within Gaelic-medium primary provision.

2.3 That a national facility to promote and coordinate curriculum development and related to Gaelic education be established.

2.4 That local authority cooperation and links with other agencies, particularly in a UK context, be extended to provide for:

a. the adoption of local language development plans by all agencies involved;

b. the formulation of a plan for the development and teaching of Gaelic, on the basis of these local and regional initiatives; and

c. the joint consideration of those factors affecting the position of the language, falling within the sphere of Local Authority functions.

SCOTTISH GAELIC

2.5 That the Scottish Education department be requested to revise the terms of Circular 1178 and guidelines to head teachers in order to safeguard the position of Gaelic in the secondary curriculum.

2.6 That local Education Authorities, Colleges of Education and the Scottish Education Department adopt a coordinated approach to teacher supply and training, to effect provision of appropriate academic and methodological components in pre-service training and opportunities for the re-training of experienced teachers to enable them to participate in Gaelic and Gaelic-medium teaching and that attention be given to developing appropriate career structures for Gaelic teachers.

2.7 That the role of universities and colleges in developing lesser used languages eg, promotion, language maintenance, development, acquisition and research be expanded.

2.8 That in view of the increasing emphasis on Gaelic as a medium of communication – given the strength of the English language in modern society – the Western Isles Islands Council be recommended to set up a Gaelic development Committee, to plan and implement Gaelic development strategies, in cooperation with other committees and local authorities.

3. RESEARCH STRATEGIES

3.1 That stress is placed on the continuing need for ongoing research, of a fundamental kind, to understand the mechanisms of language maintenance, as well as a need for applied research to monitor and promote the implementation of lesser used languages educational policy.

3.2 That further research, on language attitudes and language use patterns in the home and community, especially among young people and parents, be undertaken.

3.3 That the monitoring of lesser used language programmes in preschool and school provision (eg, Gaelic medium units) and evaluation of their effectiveness, in promoting lesser used language proficiency and use, be carried out.

3.4 That detailed research be undertaken on aspects of lesser used language teaching methodology, in order to document and show best practice.

3.5 That linguistic research, with educational implications, including work on terminology, especially for mathematics, be undertaken.

3.6 That communication networks be promoted among researchers working in particular lesser used languages (with special need being seen for Scottish Gaelic). The usefulness of cross-language networks, such as Mercator and EMU, is also recognised..

3.7 That lesser used language research units be established in each state.

3.8 That research expertise be developed among teachers of lesser used languages, with systematic collaboration between practitioners and professional researchers, in lesser used language education research.

4. GENERAL ISSUES

4.1 The Conference commends the work of the Secretariat for Children's Publishing in Lesser Used Languages and urges continuing support for its work at all levels.

4.2 The Conference draws the attention of those engaged in the teaching of lesser used languages to existing EC programmes which might be utilised in their work eg, ERASMUS, Youth for Europe and EURYDICE.

4.3 The Conference recognises the vital role of electronic media in the fields of education, recreational activities and in the development of an environment conducive to lesser used language acquisition and usage and calls for the provision of appropriate infrastructures for lesser used language broadcasting.

4.4 The Conference finally calls on authorities at EC, state, regional and local levels to provide the necessary financial support to ensure the continuing development of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Xacbert de Barbera: Lion de Combat 1185-1275
Author: J. COSTA I RICA, price 75FF. Can be obtained from Llibres del Trabuaire, 3 carrer Austas march F-66000 Perpinya or rt. de Bera, Llull 10-14 E-Barcelona 5.

Aufstand der Opfer-Johannes Vollmer/Tilman Zulch. Published by 'Gesellschaft fur bedrohte Völke', ISBN: 3-922197-27-2.

Karen Margrethe Pedersen: Sprache und Unterricht in der deutschen, danischen und friesischen Minderheit. ISBN 87-87637-61-8. Edited by K.M. Pedersen and published by the Institut für Graenseregionsforskning/ Institut für Regionale Forschung und Information; this collection of papers from a conference held in Aababraa, Denmark last September, studies the situations of bilingualism and education amongst the Frisian, German and Danish minorities in the border region between the Federal Republic and Denmark.

FUTURE EVENTS

International Conference on Language Revival in honour of the centenary of modern Hebrew – Jerusalem, Israel, 15-18 October 1990.

Audiovisual Festival of the Minority Cultures of Europe – Aixe sur Vienne, France: 11-13 May 1990.

13 Douarnanez Film Festival 19-26 August 1990, Douarnanez, Brittany.

MAJOR CATALAN AWARD FOR BRETON

The prestigious 'Premi Ramon Llull' was awarded to Per Denez, Brittany, at a ceremony which took place in the Sant Jordi room of the Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan Government Buildings).

This award, worth 2 million Pesetas is funded by the 'Fundacio Congres de Cultura Catals', in collaboration with the 'Institut d'Estudis Catalans', and is given to those who have contributed greatly to the promotion of the culture and language of stateless nations.

Per Denez, born in 1921 in Rennes, Brittany, has been active throughout all of his life in promoting and defending the Breton language and culture. Currently Professor of Breton at Université de Haute Bretagne Rennes II, he was responsible for the introduction of a degree course in the language in a heavily centralised French State. Grammatical and sociolinguistic works have been published in his name, and he is also author of over 20 novels and poems in Breton.

On hearing that he would be receiving this award he commented that this was not an honour for him alone but for the whole of Brittany and all those who struggle for minority languages and cultures.

Per Denez will retire from his post at Rennes University in September 1990. We wish him the very best in his retirement.

D. Breathnach

CEN – THE NANT GWRTHEYRN EUROPEAN CENTRE

John Hume, MEP.

A Conference was held with the support of the Commission of the European Communities at the National Language Centre of Wales in Nant Gwrtheyrn between 10-12 November 1989 with the aim of assessing the role that could be undertaken by a European centre at Nant Gwrtheyrn.

The Conference proved a great success with over fifty delegates attending, representing sixteen of the lesser used language communities. In his address to the Conference, the main guest speaker, Mr John Hume MP, MEP, opened the meeting giving a clear and vivid picture of the future of the lesser used languages in Europe. Stressing the increased optimism and awareness regarding lesser used language issues he said that:

"The European context is the strongest possible context within which to deal with the problems and prospects of lesser used languages. Multilingualism is commonplace in Europe."

During the Conference several issues were discussed with the emphasis on how the Centre could be effective in contributing to the needs of the various language communities; and complement the work being undertaken by other institutions such as Mercator, The Fryske Akademy and Ciemen. The following resolutions were passed:

(a) that the conference reiterates the recommendations of the Stornoway Conference held from 4-6 October 1989;

(b) supports the intention of setting up a European centre at Nant Gwrtheyrn;

(c) sees the Centre as another new focus to promote activity and practical cooperation on behalf of the lesser used languages with special emphasis on teaching languages to adults bearing in mind the expertise of Canolfan Iaith Nant Gwrtheyrn in this field;

(d) recognises the special place of the Centre as an interpretive centre of European language lessons for Wales and as a coordinator between the Celtic languages;

(e) believes that an official relationship should be formulated between the Centre and EBLUL;

(f) wishes the Centre well in its efforts to secure financial support from statutory and voluntary bodies, and hopes that it will go from strength to strength to the benefit of us all.

Nant Gwrtheyrn is the National Language Centre of Wales and specialises in teaching Welsh as a second language to adults. Since being established in 1978 nearly 10,000 people have attended courses at the Centre as part of their effort to learn to speak Welsh. The Centre plays an important role in the development of the Welsh language; and the European Centre at Nant Gwrtheyrn will help to promote good language learning techniques and organise and encourage exchanges between lesser used language groups.

Gareth James

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR U.K. COMMITTEE

Meeting at Caernarfon in Wales on October 13th the U.K. Committee of the Bureau elected Cllr. Dafydd Orwig as its chairman for the next three years. Cllr. Dafydd Orwig has been a member of the Gwynedd County Council since its inception and is a former Chairman of its Education Committee. He plays a prominent part in the Welsh language renaissance. In the photograph Cllr. Orwig (centre) is being congratulated by Cllr. Cynrig Williams, Chairman of the Gwynedd County Council. Looking on (left to right) are the Rev. Jack MacArthur (outgoing chairman), Mr. John Angus MacKay (newly elected vice-chairman), Mr. Séamus de Napier, (chairman of the Northern Ireland Sub-committee) and Mr. Elwyn Davies (retiring secretary of the U.K. committee). For the first time the committee was conducted in Welsh with the aid of simultaneous translation at Gwynedd County Council headquarters as are all the County Council's committees.

For our German speaking readers

CONTACT-BULLETIN is now available in German (including this edition). This brings to four the languages in which our newsletter appears: French, German, English and italian. Please inform the editor if you wish to receive copies in German in the future.

Für unsere Deutschen Leser

Das CONTACT-BULLETIN ist jetzt auch auf deutsch erhältlich (einschließlich dieser Ausgabe). Damit sind es jetzt vier Sprachen in denen der Newsletter erscheint: Französisch, Deutsch, Englisch und Italienisch. Informieren Sie bitte den Herausgeber, falls Sie in Zukunft deutschsprachige Kopien erhalten wollen.

LANGUAGE RIGHTS/ HUMAN RIGHTS

International Colloquium – 15-17 November 1990 – Council of Europe, Strasbourg

This important three day conference is being organised by the Alsace/Lorraine sub-committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, in cooperation with the French Committee of EBLUL.

The first day will concentrate on historical aspects of language rights, especially in relation to the French Revolution; these will be followed by a presentation of the situation of other European countries (including the East) as well as Canada. One will examine the whole issue of language rights, their interpretation and representation/appearance in political and juridicial practice.

The third and final day of the conference will concentrate on the philosophy of human rights and its cultural and linguistic dimension, and those taking part will include political scientists, sociologists and lawyers. The conference will end with international texts on this whole subject (United Nations Convention, Council of Europe Charter, Convention of the Conference on European Security and Cooperation) and initiatives taken by international organisations (UNO, UNESCO, European Community, Council of Europe, Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe) and non-governmental organisations.

For further information contact: International Conference Language Rights/ Human Rights, c/o Association for the Promotion of Bilingualism in Alsace and Lorraine, 31 rue Oberlin/ Oberlinstr, F-67000 Strasbourg/Strasburg, tel. +33 88 36 48 30.

On Friday 30 March 1990, his Excellency the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery, received members of the Council of the European Bureau and some friends in Áras an Uachtaráin (Presidential Palace).

Photographed on that occasion are:
Back L. Jansma (Friesland), A. Van Der Goot (Friesland), H.J. Nissen (Denmark), A. Mac Póilín (Ireland), J. Alvarez (Basque Country), D. Gorter (Friesland), G. Gerou (Greece), B. Couareg (Brittany), L. Jacoby (Luxembourg), B. Brezigar (Slovene-Italy), S. Ó Riain (Ireland), J. Dorandeu (France), D. Breathnach (Secretariat), I. Nommensen (North Friesland), A. Argemi (Catalonia), D. Kenny (Ireland), H. Jenniges (Belgium), O. Ní Chróinín (Secretariat), S. de Napier (Ireland), F. Urban (Alsace Lorraine);
Front M. Luxen (Belgium), P. Ardizzone (Italy), E. O'Dea (Ireland), A.V. Chapalain (Brittany – President EBLUL), Dr. P.J. Hillery, President of Ireland, H. Ó Murchú (Ireland), R. Kern (Belgium), D. Orwig (Wales), D. Ó Riagáin (Secretariat).

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages seeks to preserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Communities, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland. It works in close cooperation with the Commission of the European Communities and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the Commission of the EC, the Irish Government, the Government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland and the germanophone community of Belgium.

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages
Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues

CONTACT BULLETIN

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LANGUAGE LAW AND MINORITY LANGUAGES

HURDEGARYP
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OENTSJERK
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SUMAR
SUAMEER
EASTERMAR
OOSTERMEER
GEM. TYTSJERKSTERADIEL
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WIJNS
GEM. TYTSJERKSTERADIEL

Bilingualism in Friesland (see page 7)

The Second International Conference on Language and Law was held in Hong Kong from 12-15 February 1990. The following is an abstract of a paper entitled "Language Law and the Celtic Languages in the United Kingdom" given by Dr Herbert Gassner, a Croate from Austria.

Over thirty million men and women in the European Community speak lesser used languages. Naturally everyone agrees that European unity will only be achieved in a context of respect for linguistic and cultural differences. We should also remember that many of the "regional" languages and cultures overlap the boundaries of the States. If it is relatively easy to follow the movements of frontier lines, it is much less easy to follow the movements of cultures. We are well aware that the protection and recognition which is the minority's due will not come from the so-called "national states" but rather from a united Europe of the regions. We look forward to the day when matters concerning the defence of linguistic minorities will be governed by European legislation with which all the Member States of the European Community will have to comply. Justice to the minority is more important than mere convenience. Death of a regional language is also the death of a certain sort of culture. Ignorance of it is no more a virtue than other forms of ignorance.

Regional languages in Great Britain are Gaelic and Scots in Scotland, Welsh in Wales, and Cornish in Cornwall. The Welsh language has declined in terms of the number of people speaking it although the loss between the 1971 and 1981 Census was only 1% – the smallest in any ten year period – to the present 520,000 Welsh speakers. And in some counties of Wales there was a small increase in the number of Welsh speakers in the 5-14 age group. Access to the media is an essential condition for the survival of regional and minority languages in modern society. The BBC had been broadcasting radio programmes in Welsh since the 20s and Welsh language television started with the introduction of Sianel 4 Cymru on November 1 1982. Television can be an ally, not an enemy, to the cultural and linguistic needs of ethnic groups.

It has been proven historically that a language used only with family or friends undergoes a rapid process of decline and absorption by the majority language, while its own individuality gradually disappears. It is an illusion to think that a language can be saved by merely using it at certain times of the day and occasionally at semi-official functions (such as cultural exhibitions). One should be able to use the language in public offices on official documents, road signs etc. No minority language can survive, let alone develop its vocabulary, unless a reasonable proportion of civil servants and local government officers are able to use it. If a language is to survive and develop, it is essential that it be used in both private and public life. Every ethnic group should have the right to make unrestricted use of its own language in all private, social and economic relations and in public, in dealings with public authorities and before the courts. To defend minorities today is to defend the democracy and freedom of tomorrow for all.

A Census report on Scottish Gaelic (based on the 1981 returns) has illustrated the crisis that the language now faces. The census showed the total number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland to be 79,297 and the proportion of Gaelic speakers relative to the whole Scottish population is down to 1.6% as opposed to 1.7% ten years earlier, 2.7% in 1931 and 5.5% in 1891. The decennial Census Reports have contained statements on the speaking of Gaelic since 1881.

The Austrian State seems, if one is to believe the official texts, to treat minority languages (Croatian, Slovene, Czech and Slovakian, Hungarian, Tzigane) more favourably than do certain other countries.

(cont'd. page 2)

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Language Law (contd.)

The Constitution of the Austrian Republic in fact recognises the existence of linguistic minorities and affirms that the state will help them by appropriate means. Essentially, the problem is putting it into practice.

Researchers are convinced that the Croatian language has suffered greatly from not having had the prestige of being an official language since the time of the Croatian settlement in Austria (16th Century). For centuries, the ordinary Croatian citizen was expected to speak the language of the official's choice. In schools, Croatian has a lower status than a foreign language such as French. The few Croatian programmes broadcast are sometimes at inconvenient times. There is never any certainty that any concessions gained will remain as a permanent feature, and this means continual struggle. One might conclude that, unless appropriate legal steps are taken to protect and preserve the Croatian language in the near future, this language will disappear and the cultural identity of the Croats will fade.

On May 15th and 16th 1984, the Council of Europe held a public hearing to discuss a draft European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. The preparations for this event, organized by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, were long and arduous. 250 participants representing about 40 regional and minority languages were invited to Strasbourg, France (headquarters of the Council Europe). This initiative of the Council of Europe constituted a significant event in the history of European unity.

The lesser used language communities of Europe can be saved if there is a will.

Population of France Census 1990 – Minority language associations call for boycott

Every eight years France has its census with the aim of finding out about more details on population, education and social infrastructure. Census forms are delivered to all citizens by Census officers who are employed by the local authority. Failing to fill out the form can result in criminal proceedings.

In 1982, when the last census took place the association, 'Skol an Emser', in Brittany, called on its members not to fill out the census form when no question appeared relating to regional languages.

In 1990, a majority of language associations have now come together under the auspices of the Breton Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages and called for a boycott. There are two main demands: 1) that the census form include a question on the number of people who speak a regional language or languages; and 2) that the forms be bilingual. It would be worth mentioning here that negotiations took place two years ago with the INSEE (National Institute for Scientific and Economic Studies) and the Minister for Social Affairs. The result of these negotiations was a promise by the Minister that a survey would be carried out in 1991 to determine the number of Breton speakers out of a representative group of 2,000 interviewees. Even though the Breton cultural movement, as a whole, welcomes such a survey, this does not replace the need for questions to be placed on the census.

The monthly magazine "Le Peuple Breton", newspaper of the 'Union démocratique bretonne' political party, published a copy of the census form in Breton. The Breton language magazine "Breman" shortly followed suit and many people used these forms, or refused to answer any of the questions, thus making it loud and clear how far they were willing to go by giving unclear returns so that the voice of France's languages will be heard at the next census.

This campaign which began in Brittany later spread to Paris and the Occitan-speaking regions.

A minor survey was to be carried out in Brittany before the 1991 survey but the question of how many speakers of Breton there are remains to be asked. As we approach 1993, is it not absurd that France continues to refuse to do what other states are doing? Even the Government of London includes a question on regional languages in the Census form for Northern Ireland.

Anna Vari Chapalain

Press Service

Last year, the Bureau established a part time press service in Brussels. Its objective is to bring to the attention of the wider European public matters which are of interest to speakers of lesser used languages. Press releases are distributed, in a number of major languages, through the various press agencies in Brussels. Readers of CONTACT-BULLETIN are invited to submit copies of press releases, newspaper cuttings, articles and suggestions on topics they feel might be of interest. These should be sent to the Press Officer, Martina Luxen, 15 rue Teniers, B-1030 Brussels, BELGIUM.

VISIT TO ARLON (South Belgium)

The region of Arlon (Arelerland) is a small area of Belgium where there is an autochthonous Luxembourgish (Frankonian-Moselle) minority. At the beginning of 1990, members from the European Bureau visited this region along the Belgian-Luxembourg border. In this photograph, taken in the middle of an old Arlon town, are, from left to right. Anna Vari Chapalain – President European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Dónall Ó Riagáin – Secretary General of EBLUL, Hubert Jenniges – President of the Belgian Committee of the European Bureau. All are accompanied by Anna-Katarina Differdange, a young bilingual girl from the village of Lischert (Vallée de l'Attert).

Linguistic Diversity and President Mitterand

BRO NEVEZ, the newsletter of the American section of the International Committee for the Defence of the Breton Language published an interesting excerpt from an interview given by President Mitterand to the National Geographic Magazine (Vol. 176 no. 1 – July 1989).

I find him a warm, if reserved host. Quick, precise, moderate, concerned and sure of himself. Not surprisingly as a key draftsman of 1992 he talks more about the future of Europe than the past of France.

"As of the first of July, I will be presiding over the European Council. I have set myself four goals. First, encourage the monetary union. Second, develop social protection. Third, initiate real environmental protection and fourth, develop a European culture through the audio-visual media. We have satellites that will cover all of Europe."

Was that rumble the Métro passing or De Gaulle tossing in his grave? A common culture for all Europe?

"Yes", answers the President. "First we must learn to be Europe, to say what is specific to us, and second, to protect the diversity among Europeans. Take the Gaelic language. Who will save it if Europeans don't? And Flemish. Hungarian. Finnish. The first important language that would be threatened is German, rather than French... All this is liable to be lost with total saturation by American films and Japanese technology".

Taken with a number of positive references to Irish, made by him over the past couple of years, President Mitterand would seem to be a new convert to the concept of linguistic and cultural diversity in a united Europe.

The Bretons, Corsicans, Occitans and other lesser used language communities in France will await with interest the practical application by President Mitterand of his ideas to the French scene.

D. Ó Riagáin

Lesser Used Language Youth Exchanges

On Saturday, 8 September, nine youth movement representatives from lesser used language areas met at the Irish Institute of European Affairs in Leuven. Under the auspices of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages a Lesser Used Language Youth Organisation was established.

The first task of the youth committee will be to bring about exchanges between young speakers of lesser used languages. In order that such youth exchanges can take place, contact was made with those responsible for the EC's "Youth for Europe" Programme. Tina Viollier-Mogensen (Task Force – Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth) and Lluis Philippe Vasconcelas (European Youth Exchange Bureau) addressed the meeting to explain in full the "Youth for Europe" programme. Youth exchanges from lesser used language areas could be organised within the framework of this programme.

In order that the new youth committee to receive support from the EC Commission certain conditions must be met. A working group of five was therefore established to examine the practical questions that need to be asked, to outline definite structures and to set up contact with members of the Commission.

The Bureau is optimistic that with the establishment of a lesser used language youth organisation new impetus can be given to demands and protection of the lesser used languages.

Martina Luxen

New Publications

"Die Autonomie Grönlands" – Theodor Veiter, Universität Innsbruck.
Greenland, with its 2,175 km^2 is the largest island in the world. Geographically it is part of North America and with a few exceptions is inhabited by around 5,000 Eskimos. They read and write Inupik.

Greenland is an autonomous region of the Kingdom of Denmark. It has its own legislation for most areas its own government and its own parliament.

The author has travelled time and time again through Greenland and is a specialist in the area of people's rights and the legal situation of autonomous areas. He offers the interested reader all details on the legal situation in Greenland.

Further information on this publication can be had from: Wilkelm Braumuller, Universitäts-Verlagsbuchhandlung, Ges.m.b.h.H., Servitengasse 5, A-1092 Wien, Austria.

"Essai de description du système graphique de Michel Tronc" – Philippe Blanchet. **Further information from: Ph. Blanchet, Observatoire linguistique, Cressenville, 27440, Ecouis, FRANCE.**

The Welsh Language Board Directory of Translators

A directory of translators and interpreters into and from Welsh has just been published by the Welsh Language Board in Cardiff, Wales. John Elfed Jones, Chairman of the Welsh Language Board, writes in the introduction to the directory: "This directory, which is the first of its kind to be published, can help by putting you in direct contact with professional qualified translators able to produce work of the highest quality. The purpose of this directory is to help you to make more use of the Welsh language."

With over 100 translators listed, all professional and recommended by the Welsh Language Board, individuals, organisations and companies throughout Wales can now refer to this directory when in need of translation services to or from Welsh. Information on hiring out translating and interpreting equipment is also included.

For further information, contact: The Welsh Language Board, Longcross Court, 47 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1AD, WALES.

Future Events

International Conference on Language Revival in honour of the centenary of Modern Hebrew, Israel, 15-18 October 1990.

Congress **Ethnic Minorities in Europe**, Freedom in Diversity, 27-29 September 1990, Villach-Warmbad, Carinthia, AUSTRIA.

XV Seminar on Language and Education: School and Migration in the Europe of the 90s, 22-24/11/1990, Palau Maricel, Sitges, Barcelona.

International colloquium: **the Polynomic Languages**, 17-22 November 1990, Université Pasquale Paoli, Corsica.

International Seminar on Language Planning (In Territories with their own language under pressure from hegemonic languages). 25-28 September 1991. Further information from: I Seminario Internacional sobre Planificación Lingüística, Consello da Cultura Galega, Apartado 773, E-15705 Santiago de Compostela, Galicia (Spain).

Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (a few extracts)

The representatives of the States which took part in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) – United States of America, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Holy See, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia – met in Copenhagen from the fifth to the twenty-ninth of June 1990 in accordance with the provisions regarding the Conference on the human dimension of the CSCE contained in the closing Document of the meeting which took place in Vienna as part of the CSCE follow-up process.

At a special meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States taking part in the CSCE, held on the fifth of June 1990 at the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, it was agreed to convene a preparatory commission in Vienna on the tenth of July 1990 to make preparations for a summit meeting of their Heads of State and Government in Paris.

The participating States express their great satisfaction at the fundamental political changes which have taken place in Europe since the first meeting of the Conference on the human dimension of the CSCE in Paris in 1989. They note that the CSCE process has contributed in large measure to these changes which have, in turn, significantly advanced the application of the provisions of the final Act and the other CSCE documents.

They recognise that pluralist democracy and the rule of law are essential in order to guarantee respect of all human rights and of all basic liberties, the development of contacts between people and the quest for solutions to other related questions of a humanitarian nature. They therefore welcome the commitment made by all the participating states to attain to the ideals of democracy and political pluralism and their common determination to establish democratic societies founded on free elections and the rule of law.

At the Copenhagen meeting, the participating states carried out an examination of the implementation of their commitments in the area of the human dimension. They took the view that the respect of commitments contained in the relevant provisions of the CSCE documents had significantly advanced the Paris meeting. They also expressed the opinion however, that further progress was necessary to realise fully the commitments made in the area of the human dimension.

The participating states express their conviction that the total respect of human rights and of basic liberties, the development of societies based on pluralist democracy and the rule of law are necessary prior conditions for progress in the establishment of a lasting order of peace, security, justice, and cooperation which they are seeking to bring about in Europe. They therefore reaffirm their commitment to full implementation of all the provisions o the final Act and of the other CSCE documents concerning the human dimension, and they will work to advance further the progress that has been made.

They recognise that cooperation amongst themselves, and the active participation of individuals, groups, organisations and institutions will be essential to the quest for progress in the achievement of their common aims.

In order to enhance respect for, and the enjoyment of, human rights and basic liberties, to develop contact between people and to find solutions to the related humanitarian questions, the participating states agree the following:

(30) The participating states recognise that the questions concerning national minorities can only be resolved in a satisfactory manner within a democratic political framework based on the rule of law, with an effective independent judiciary. This framework guarantees the total respect of human rights and basic liberties, equality of rights and conditions for all citizens, the free expression of their legitimate interests and aspirations, the application of legal rules providing effective control of abuses of power by government, political pluralism and social tolerance.

They further acknowledge the important role played by non-governmental organisations, including political parties, trades unions, human rights organisations and religious groups, in the promotion of tolerance and cultural diversity and in the quest for solutions to problems concerning national minorities.

They also reaffirm that the respect of the rights of members of national minorities, considered as universally recognised human rights, is an essential factor for peace, justice, stability and democracy in the participating states.

(31) Members of national minorities have the right to exercise fully and effectively their human rights and their basic liberties, without discrimination and with full equality before the law.

The participating states will adopt, where the need arises, special measures with a view to guaranteeing members of national minorities full equality with other citizens in the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and basic liberties.

(32) Belonging to a national minority is a matter of personal choice and no disadvantage may result from such a choice.

Members of national minorities have the right to express, to preserve and to develop in complete freedom their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity and to maintain and to develop their culture in all its forms, free from any attempt at assimilation against their will. In particular, they have the right:

(32.1) to use freely their mother language in private and in public;

(32.2) to set up and to maintain their own educational, cultural and religious institutions, organisations or associations, which may seek voluntary financial contributions and other contributions, including public aid, in accordance with national legislation;

(32.3) to profess and to practice their religion, including to acquire, possess and use religious objects, and to provide religious education in their mother tongue;

(32.4) to establish and to maintain contact unhindered with one another within their country, and contact across the border with citizens of other states with whom they share ethnic or national origin, cultural heritage or religious beliefs;

(32.5) to disseminate and to exchange information through the medium of their mother language and to have access to such information;

(32.6) to set and to maintain organisations or associations in their country and to take part in the activities of international non-governmental organisations.

Members of national minorities may, both individually and jointly with other members of their group, exercise and enjoy their rights. The exercise or the non-exercise of these rights may not entail a disadvantage for a member of a national minority.

(33) The participating states will protect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities on their territory and will create conditions favourable to the promotion of this identity. They will take the necessary measures for this purpose after appropriate consultations and, in particular, after making contact, with the organisations or associations of these minorities, in accordance with the decision-making procedure of each state.

Such measures must be in keeping with the principles of equality and non-discrimination with respect to the other citizens of the participating state concerned.

(34) The participating states will endeavour to guarantee that members of national minorities, irrespective of their having to learn the official language or languages of the state concerned, will have the opportunity of learning their mother tongue, or of receiving tuition in that language, and, if possible and necessary, to use it in their dealings with the authorities, in accordance with the national legislation in force.

In the teaching of history and of culture in educational establishments, they will also take account of the history and culture of the national minorities.

(35) The participating states will respect the right of members of national minorities to participate effectively in public affairs, in particular, in matters concerning the protection and promotion of the identity of such minorities.

The participating states take note of the efforts made to create and foster conditions conducive to the promotion of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of certain national minorities by setting up, as one means of attaining these objectives, appropriate local or autonomous administrations, reflecting the specific historical and territorial situation of these minorities, in accordance with the policy of the state concerned.

(36) The participating states recognise the special importance of strengthening constructive cooperation amongst themselves in questions relating to national minorities. This cooperation is aimed at encouraging mutual understanding and trust, friendly relations and good neighbourliness, international peace, security and justice.

Every participating state will promote the creation of a climate favourable to mutual understanding and respect, of cooperation and solidarity among all citizens living on its territory, without distinction as to ethnic or national origin or religious belief, and it will encourage the quest for solutions to problems through dialogue founded on the principles of the rule of law.

(37) None of these commitments may be interpreted as conferring any right whatsoever to undertake any activity or to accomplish any act in breach of the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter, or of other obligations under international law or of the provisions of the final Act, including the principle of territorial integrity of states.

(38) The participating states, in their efforts aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of members of national minorities, will respect fully the commitments made in accordance with agreements entered into in the area of human rights and other international instruments, and they will examine the possibility of becoming party to such conventions, if they have not already done so, including those granting citizens the right to lodge a complaint.

(39) The participating states will cooperate closely with each other in the relevant international organisations to which they belong, including the United Nations Organisation and, where applicable, the Council of Europe, in view of the work in progress concerning questions relating to national minorities.

They will examine the possibility of holding a meeting of experts for an in-depth discussion of the question of national minorities.

(40) The participating states condemn clearly and unequivocally totalitarianism, racial and ethnic hatred, anti-semitism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination against whomsoever, and also all persecution for religious or ideological motives. In this regard, they further recognise the specific problems of the Roms (Gypsies).

They declare that they are firmly resolved to intensify their efforts to combat these phenomena in all their forms and therefore,

(40.1) they will take effective measures, including the enactment, in accordance with their constitutional system and their international obligations, of laws necessary to ensure protection against any act constituting incitement to violence against individuals or groups, based on national, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, or to hostility or hatred, including anti-semitism;

(40.2) they will undertake to take all suitable and appropriate measures to protect individuals or groups who could be victims of threats or of acts of discrimination, of hostility or of violence by virtue of their racial, ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, and to protect their property;

(40.3) they will take effective measures, in accordance with their constitutional systems, at national, regional and local level, to foster understanding and tolerance, particularly in the areas of education, culture and information;

(40.4) they will endeavour to guarantee that the educational system lays emphasis on the problem of racial hatred and prejudices and respect for different civilisations and cultures;

(40.5) they will recognise the right of everybody to an effective legal redress, and they will endeavour to recognise, in accordance with national legislation, the right of affected

Continued page 6

Language Watch: Series of European Debates – "Language and Freedom"

Based in Cressenville (France) LANGUAGE WATCH, a non-profit making association, was established two years ago under a 1901 French law. The main aims of the association are: 1) to observe the development of modern languages, 2) to encourage multilingualism and language learning from an early age, and 3) to help build cultural bridges between the different linguistic communities.

Languages of Freedom

Under the direction of the linguist David Dalby of British and French nationality, and the young linguist and Provencal poet Philippe Blanchet, Language Watch is already acquiring an international reputation. Its bilingual travelling exhibition 'Languages of Freedom' first took place last year at the George Pompidou Centre in Paris and moved later to the Hotel de Région in Rouen, and last May it could be seen at the Palais de Congrés in Liè. It will be at the Commonwealth Institute, London in Autumn 1990 and next year will travel to Geneva.

European Series of Public Debates

As Europe undergoes sudden changes there is a need for immediate reflection and debate amongst the public at large as well as at intergovernmental and institutional level. As a result of this, Language Watch is organising a European series of public debates on the theme "Our Languages and European Unity".

The primary question of concern to the debates is: In a large Europe undergoing major changes, how can language diversity, a constant source of richness and rivalry, best serve this unity?

The central objective of these debates is to set up a public platform on a European level where everybody can express themselves in their own language; where we can discuss means of improving our perception of the cultures of our neighbours and where, across the whole of the continent, we can express our wishes for a free Europe, united in its respect for human rights and the rights of each linguistic and cultural community.

The concrete aim here is to help towards breaking down the walls and borders which separate our languages and peoples.

Each debate in the series will bring together specialists (of language, education, etc.) and non-specialists, monolinguals and multilinguals, and debates will take place in the language of the area. The places chosen for debate will always be a provincial town of Europe rather than a European capital or large university town.

Continuity of the different debates will be assured by a sub-titled video which will allow each participant to follow and take up themes of the current and of previous debates. At the end of the series a film summarising the whole proceedings will be made and will present the results of these inter-European debates.

The first of the series took place on 12 May 1990 in French at Fleury-Sur-Andelles and this will be followed by debates in the USSR, Belgium, Germany and Hungary.

A survey on the languages of Europe was carried out by specialists and was followed by a public debate. M. Locatelli, Executive-Secretary of the Permanent Conference of Local and Regional Authorities in the Council of Europe, made particular reference to the Charter for the protection of so-called "regional languages", which is now being prepared by the Council of Europe and which is now being studied by the Committee of Ministers, the final step before its proposal for ratification by the member states (see Contact-Bulletin, Vol 4, No. 3).

Three important points have arisen from the above discussions:

1. The need now to take a closer look at the layout of Europe, now that the audio-visual industry is revolutionizing the relationship between the written and spoken language, between language and nation, between province and metropolis. Most of Europe speaks a language which belongs to one of the three great linguistic "networks": Latin, continental Germanic and Slav.
2. The need to respect freedom of expression in "minority", regional, or immigrant languages, and to support the literary and cultural renaissance which is already underway in many of these languages.
3. The need to encourage functional multilingualism in teaching (in at least three languages) so as to safeguard the linguistic and cultural identities which are coming up against one international language.
4. The need to take cultural and educational action to bring down the linguistic barriers, still all too evident, which separate the Latin, Germanic, Slav and Hungarian people.

Language Watch is continually looking for partners and members from all countries. All interested parties should address themselves to David Dalby, Director, Language Watch, Cressenville, F-27440 Ecouis, France. Tel: +33 32 49 35 60.

Recent Education Reform in Northern Ireland and the Irish Language

In the wake of the Department of Education and Science's (DES) Education Reform Bill in England and Wales, the Minister of Education at the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), Dr. Brian Mawhinney, and the Department of Education for Northern Ireland (DENI) produced their consultation paper "Education in Northern Ireland - Proposals for Reforms" in March 1988. After a period of consultation DENI published "Education Reform for Northern Ireland, The Way Forward"* in October 1988. Finally, in March 1990, the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order became law.

The position of the Irish language was a matter of considerable controversy and discussion during these two years, and the whole process should be of great interest and relevance to lesser used languages in general, regarding education law and reform.

In the March 1988 paper "Proposals for Reform", the UK government's educational approach to the particular situation of Northern Ireland was laid out, but Irish in English-medium schools seemed to be marginalised in it. Full recognition was given, however, to Irish in Irish-medium schools, but in reality this refers to very few schools.

Hitherto, Irish in Northern Ireland has been recognised and appreciated by the maintained (Catholic) school system and the minority community, but generally ignored by the state system and the majority (Protestant) community. It had a strong position in the maintained secondary schools and a fairly vigorous, though uncoordinated, presence in the maintained primary schools.

'Proposals for Reform' evoked a considerable response from people concerned about the language, and this was apparently recognised in 'The Way Forward' where it is claimed that "the Government fully recognises the importance of the Irish language to many people in Northern Ireland" (2.15) and acknowledges the belief of many people that it contributes "to the cultural identity and heritage of Northern Ireland's children" (2.3).

This positive tone was encouraging, but offered little comfort when one tried to interpret the actual substance of the curriculum proposals. Language studies at primary level were dismissed as 'NOT APPLICABLE'. This appeared to ban Irish, and language teaching in general, from the primary schools, despite the practice of primary language teaching in many parts of the world, the positive role being developed for Welsh within UK legislation, and, indeed, despite the encouraging tone of some earlier documents from the Department of Education in Britain, and in Northern Ireland. The primary teaching of languages other than Irish has been extremely rare, and while one could have scarcely have hoped for Irish to be included in the core curriculum, it was felt that some flexibility at least ought to have been envisaged, if not encouraged.

At second level, Language Studies were seen in the context of 'an increasingly international job market' and it was decided that all pupils be required to take one of "the major European languages - French, Spanish or German" - up to the age of 16. Irish could be taken as an extra language, a situation which was claimed to be analogous to the position for Welsh in Wales. This was felt to be misleading, however. In Northern Ireland, as against Great Britain, the distinction between 'grammar' and 'secondary' schools remains, with selection at age eleven, and indeed the differences could become more marked. There is a danger that the system, by the nature of its own structures, could designate the present 'secondary' schools as inferior, and the staff and pupils will be well aware of these distinctions. These pupils are not comparable to their peers in Britain who are educated in a more comprehensive environment. They are less likely to be convinced of the utilitarian argument as a realistic aspiration, but neither, unfortunately, are they likely to be offered Irish as an extra on top of a heavily-loaded lower second level curriculum.

Even in 'Grammar' schools, Irish was penalised in being regarded as a voluntary, or burdensome, extra. Arguments on behalf of the development of language awareness and attitudes were not recognised.

The debate following on 'The Way Forward' document was long and sometimes acrimonious. Finally, however, Dr Mawhinney issued two statements to clarify the position of Irish.

1. (Re: NOT APPLICABLE):
   "The phrase means no more than that for the majority of schools, language studies are not *compulsory* at primary level. The document also explains that schools may offer subjects other than the compulsory subjects if they wish - and in the case of the language studies area that includes Irish or any other language. The Government is certainly not downgrading the importance of the Irish language". (15.2.879).

2. (Re: Irish in Second-level Schools)
   "The forthcoming legislation will therefore require all secondary schools to provide one or more of French, German, Spanish or Italian - so that all pupils will have the option available to them in their own school to acquire competence in one of these major EC (European Community) working languages. A school may, if it wishes, offer Irish in addition to these. Where a school offers Irish, pupils and their parents will be free to choose from among the languages offered - whether French, German, Spanish, Italian or Irish - in order to satisfy the requirements of the common curriculum. There will be no restrictions placed on that choice. So, if parents choose, Irish can be taken instead of one of the four major EC languages. (21.3.89).

This is the situation which now applies in legislation since the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order became law in March 1990, although in this Order, and the draft which preceded it, careful reading is required to tease out the position of Irish. Nevertheless, a role for Irish is acknowledged. It is unlikely, however, that the State system will adopt the language with much enthusiasm in the foreseeable future, and we can only hope that the maintained system will develop a positive, self-confident philosophy with regard to the Irish language and these reforms.

Dr. Eoghan Mac Éinrí

* *cf. "The Way Forward" and the Irish Language in Northern Ireland's Education System", by this author in Éire/Ireland, vol. XXIV, 2 (Summer 1989).*

Copenhagen CSCE Document (contd.)

individuals and groups to take legal action against acts of discrimination, including racialist and xenophobic acts, and to support such action;
(40.6) they will consider becoming party, if they have not already done so, to international instruments dealing with the problem of discrimination, and they will guarantee that they will comply fully with the obligations laid down in these instruments, including those which involve the submission of regular reports;
(40.7) they will also examine the possibility of adopting international mechanisms which allow states and individuals to make submissions to international bodies concerning acts of discrimination.

STUDY VISITS TO FRIESLAND AND SCOTLAND

"A visit to the great dyke at Haarlingen brought into context in my mind, the statistics and information the study group had received. The language of Friesland is under the same threat from Dutch that the land of Friesland is from the sea. It is the same threat that hangs over all minority languages – the threat of being submerged. Those involved in the promotion of Frisian, and languages in similar situations, in their own fields of expertise and support, are the ones whose fingers in the dyke make all the difference between survival, consolidation and possible growth, or eventual submergence and oblivion." (Vivian Uíbh Eachach – Ireland).

Such was one participant's conclusion at the end of a study visit to Friesland with a group of people from various linguistic minorities throughout the EC who travelled to Friesland as part of the European Commission's study visit programme organised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

The five day visit began with a general introduction to the situation of Frisian, the only indigenous minority language in the Netherlands and spoken by approximately 340,000 people along the Netherlands' northern coast. The province of Friesland enjoys a bilingual policy where both Dutch and Frisian are official languages. According to a survey carried out in 1984 of 12 year olds and over, 94% of the Province's population understood the language, 73% could speak it, 65% could read it and 10% could write it. However in spite of the Province's bilingual status participants write in their reports that it is not immediately evident when travelling through the region that this is the case as most signage is in Dutch only. During a visit to the offices of the Provincial Government the group was informed that efforts were being made to change this and participants were informed of the Provincial Government's deep concern for the language. Six people are employed full time in promoting bilingualism and even though many problems remain the general concensus among participants was that the Provincial Government was making a serious effort in promoting it.

After visiting schools and educational organisations participants were quick to learn that it is within the field of education where most progress is being made. An Education Act was introduced to the Province in 1955 which established Frisian as a medium of education. In 1974 it became a compulsory subject and children are now encouraged to learn it as it can increase their employment prospects if they wish to stay in the area. As regards third level education a degree can be obtained in Frisian in 5 out of the Netherlands' 20 universities. Such progress in education was also helped by organisations such as AFUK (General Committee on Frisian Education) set up in the 1920s to provide Frisian medium education for children. Today, however, the centre concentrates more on adults by providing Frisian classes and running courses where speakers of Frisian are taught how to be more assertive in their use of the language and insisting that people speak it. AFUK is also involved in book publishing and co-publishing with other minority language publishers.

Perhaps what impressed participants most during the visit was their visit to the Fryske Akademy. Here, 30 professional researchers and 600 lay researchers work on the language and publish information and studies on and about Frisian. Presently, work is being carried out on a 20 volume dictionary of the Frisian language, which will include both standard and dialectal words. The Akademy was also responsible for the EMU Project (v. CB Col. 5, No. 3) which dealt with minority languages in primary education. Participants also felt, however, that in spite of all the great work being carried out on this level more concrete steps would need to be taken, as it seemed to them after 5 days in Friesland that Frisian was gaining more recognition by academics and researchers than it was by people in the street.

Scotland

The opposite would appear to be the case in Scotland where another group travelled under the same scheme to see at close hand the situation of the Celtic language of Scottish Gaelic or Gaidhlig. In this part of the world it would appear from reading through participants' reports, that this minority language continues to draw recognition on a national level. The general overall impression here was that the language was weak but organisations involved in promoting it amongst the people were strong.

As in Friesland, participants were taken to a primary school on the Isle of Lewis where they saw children learn English through the medium of Gaidhlig. They also visited a primary school in Glasgow where Gaidhlig medium classes were offered. In one of these schools 68 out of 250 pupils chose Gaidhlig medium classes and this number continues to increase from year to year. As regards secondary education, since 1988 pupils in Glasgow can choose between Gaidhlig and French during their first year of secondary school and it is hoped that as the number of pupils interested in the language increases it will be possible by 1992 to have Gaidhlig as an examination subject at the end of the secondary school cycle. Even though more classes are being provided in Gaidhlig, and more pupils are taking up the language, a major problem exists where textbooks are concerned, especially those of a technical nature as there is a serious lack of choice of higher level books in the language.

Participants travelled out to another island off Scotland's northwesterly coast to visit Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the only third level educational establishment in Scotland where Gaidhlig is the medium of education. The original idea of opening the college on the Isle of Skye was to give young islanders the opportunity of a third level education without having to leave the island. This has worked in that most of those who have qualified from the College found employment on the island. Courses offered are Business with Gaidhlig Studies, Business Studies with Information Technology and Business Studies with Office Technology. The college is also involved in a large database of Gaelic terminology and terms which according to one participant will not only play a central role in the development of Gaidhlig but in the development of other minority languages also.

Participants were also brought to ACAIR a publishing house for books in Gaidhlig specialising in school texts for primary schools. ACAIR also provides worthwhile service for authors of Gaidhlig whose original works it publishes and which would otherwise remain unpublished.

The situation of the language in the media is also improving and participants visited Radio nan Gaidheal in Stornaway which broadcasts up to 32 hours a week in the language. This compares with only 21 hours a week being broadcast 30 years ago. 2 hours a week of Gaidhlig television are broadcast and Comunn na Gaidhlig now has as one of its aims to increase this to 10 hours a week by 1995.

Comunn na Gaidhlig was set up in 1984 to build as many infrastructures as possible to enable Gaidhlig speakers use their language in as many situations as possible. From participants' reports it would now appear that CNAG is having success as the language is now showing signs of coming out of the serious decline in which it found itself back in the 1920s.

All in all it would appear from reading through the reports of participants that the above two visits were a great success. Whereas one could not expect a detailed or exact analysis of the position of a linguistic minority after a visit of five days, the particular expertise of the participants who make these visits, the exchange of ideas between the various members of the group, and the intensity and scope of the programmes which they follow, have enabled them to write reports of value and interest.

The Bureau is greatly indebted to those who helped organise the visits on the ground, without whose cooperation these visits would never take place. **(D. Breathnach)**

Language and Teaching amongst the German, Danish and Frisian Minority

In 1978 a conference on the linguistic problems of the border region concentrated on research into the language varieties of the German-Danish border region. In the following ten years a number of scientific studies were carried out dealing with the areas of language pedagogy, psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics. These field studies had very little immediate effect on didactical, or methodological, efforts to bring about change in schools.

In September of 1989 a follow-up meeting took place whose object it was to discuss and present ideas on bilingualism from a linguistic and pedagogical perspective. At the same time one had to spell out the aims and methods of bilingual education and the direction new developments in curricula and teaching were to take.

The conference, whose attendance was limited to 50 people was financially assisted by the European Commission and was organised by an organising group of which the chairman of the Danish Committee of EBLUL was a member.

"Future training for teachers", Minority, first-, second-, and foreign language", "Teaching and learning methods for school children with two languages" and "Cultural aspects in teaching and training", constituted the main themes of the conference.

In order to respond to teachers' wishes that a practical outcome be the result of all the discussion, the following initiatives were decided upon:

- The provision of teaching material on "The Vikings", as part of a bilingual teaching course in cooperation with German and Danish colleagues.
- The provision of teaching materials in an effort towards gaining more pedagogical ground in Northfriesland.
- The coordination of German and Danish lessons in the first and second school year in a Germanophone school in Northschleswig/Denmark.

In general this conference instigated great interest and it is the hope of the organisers, the "Institut for graenseregionsforskning" (Denmark) and the "Institut für regionale Forschung und Information" (Schleswig Holstein), that the above recommendations will continue to be carried out through cross-border cooperation.

Research and practical papers of the conference set out in a volume "Sprache und Unterricht in der deutschen, dänischen und friesischen Minderheit" – Karen Margrethe Pedersen and is available from the "Institut for graenseregionsforskning", Persillegade 6, DK-6200 Aabenraa, Denmark. **(H.J. Nissen)**

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MULTILINGUALISM IN GREECE

The European Bureau for lesser used languages has in recent years been informing itself more on the linguistic situation in Greece. The Bureau organised two visits to Greece in 1987 and 1990 during which first hand information was received on the situation of Greece's lesser used language communities. Resulting from our close contacts with those working on the ground it is hoped that a Greek committee will be established in the near future.

In order to provide readers with an oversight of the lesser used language situation of this member state, we are publishing the following extracts from "Linguistic Minorities in the European Economic Community: Spain, Portugal, Greece" – Commission ofthe EC. ISBN: 92-826-0375-X (EN), 92-826-0374-1 (ES), 92-826-0376-8 (FR). This report was prepared by Prof. M.S. Siguan, University of Barcelona, on behalf of the EC Commission. The views do not necessarily represent those either of the Commission or of the Bureau.

– General overview –

In order to describe the different linguistic minorities in modern Greece, it will be useful to begin by giving some basic information about Greek history and the way in which the Greek State came into being. This history dates back to the classical era, an era of which we Europeans all to some extent consider ourselves the heirs, but of which modern Greeks consider themselves direct descendants. Classical Greece, however, did not constitute a nation in the modern sense of the word, but rather a conglomeration of independent cities. Moreover the limits of the Hellenic world were very wide, extending along both coasts of the Mediterranean, but they were vague and difficult to define.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since Philip of Macedonia tried to integrate the Greek cities into a political unit in the fourth century BC and the history of the Hellenic peninsula has been extraordinarily eventful. In fact several events took place: their incorporation of the peninsula into the Roman Empire, Christianization, the separation of the Church of Constantinople (Orthodox) from that of Rome (Catholic), the crusades of the West against Islam in which Greece was both a way-station and an object of conquest, and finally the Ottoman Empire. At the beginning of the 19th century the rebellion against Turkish rule began, and it was in the course of this long struggle that a Greek national identity was forged which lead to the creation, in 1830, of an independent Greek state. This new state covered scarcely a third of the area of modern Greece. The fight for independence continued until the beginning of this century, while in other parts of the Balkan peninsula, other nationalist movements were also fighting against the Turks. This period of bloodshed finished in 1913 with the Treaty of Bucharest, which fixed the political map of the Balkans including the frontiers between Greece and its northern neighbours: Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. As a result of this delimiting of frontiers, massive population movements took place, and hundreds of thousands of Slavs left the part of Macedonia awarded to Greece and headed north, while a large number of Greeks left Bulgaria and other countries and settled in the interior of Greece.

The newly independent Greek State had accepted borders in Macedonia but it was not willing to give up its claim to the Western part of Asia Minor, which had been a pillar of Greek culture in the classical period, and which was still largely inhabited by Greeks. The First World War seemed to offer the

(cont'd. page 2)

Arvanite-speaking lady, aged 92, at Limnes village

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Multilingualism in Greece (contd.)

possibility of a reconquest, but the attempt ended in tragedy. The Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 regulated the new mass migrations which were carried out in often dramatic conditions. 1,221,000 Greeks left Asia Minor to settle on the Hellenic peninsula, while 354,617 Turks migrated from Greece to Turkey.

These treaties and migrations, and the subsequent incorporation of the Dodecanese (1947) obliged Greece to put an end to its period of geographical expansion. At the same time that it gave up its claims on new territories, it decided to create within its borders a unified country with a single race, language and culture. However, within the territory of Greece there are still linguistic minorities and although they are not very numerous and have little influence, their existence cannot be denied.

The Greek population census of 1951 gave the following classification of the inhabitants according to mother tongue:

Turkish-speaking*	92,443
Slav-speaking	41,017
Vlachs	39,855
Arvanites	22,736
Pomaks	18,671

* (of which 86,633 in Western Thrace)

The census counted some other languages (less than 10,000 speakers). The total number of Greek citizens according to census was about 7,600,000.

The accuracy of these official figures has often been questioned by some various migrant groups. Furthermore they are now nearly forty years old. More important than their intrinsic value is the fact that these are the only available figures of an official nature. Indeed, subsequent censuses did not take ethnic or linguistic peculiarities into account, and there are no other official or semi-official sources of data on the subject. It seems as if there had been a political will not to carry out a census of the different groups, something evidently related to the unification policy already referred to. The explanation for this attitude must lie in the fact that all the minority languages mentioned can be related to languages spoken in neighbouring countries, countries with which Greece has tense and often hostile relations. There is a general historical memory of the independence struggle and of certain episodes in the last world war where a part of the Greek territory was occupied by neighbouring countries which tried to annex them with the excuse of historical or ethnical revendications.

One important limitation must be added to this generalization. The Treaty of Lausanne which ended the war and regulated the movements of population between Greece and Turkey also authorized the continued presence of an Orthodox minority in Turkey and Muslim minority in Greece, in Western Thrace. Articles 37 to 44 of the Treaty govern the rights of the non-Muslim (for which we can read Orthodox) minority in Turkey. Thus article 40 says: "Turkish citizens belonging to non-Muslim minorities will enjoy the same treatment and the same guarantees in practice and in law as other Turkish citizens. They will have the right to create, manage and maintain at their expense any charitable, religious or social institutions as well as schools and other teaching and educational establishments, with the right freely to use their own language and freely to practise their own religion".

Article 45 lays down that: "The rights recognized by the stipulations of the present section in respect of non-Muslim minorities in Turkey, are also recognized by Greece in respect of the Muslim minority settled in its territory."

The text of these articles suggests some comments: "The first minority whose rights are regulated is that settled in Turkish territory, and thereafter the rights of Muslims in Greece are defined as being identical to those of the Greek Orthodox population. If one remembers that Istanbul, formerly Constantinople, is the residence of the Patriarch, the supreme authority of the Greek Orthodox Church, it is legitimate to suppose that it was the Greeks' insistence on maintaining the Patriarchy in its traditional seat, in spite of the massive expulsion of Greeks from Turkey, that motivated the safeguards for this minority orthodox in Turkey and as a counterpart, the recognition of similar rights for the Muslims in Greece. So, on the basis of reciprocity Greece should guarantee rights of the Muslim minority and Turkey should guarantee those of the Greek minority.

Whatever the reasons may have been, the fact is that the Treaty of Lausanne guarantees the existence of a mostly Turkish-speaking minority in Western Thrace (the Muslim minority also includes Pomaks and Gypsies, as we shall shortly see) and defines their rights, something that is not true of the other linguistic minorities found in Greece. Important consequences derive from this difference. Indeed, while the majority opinion in most of Greek society and among those who govern it is that members of other linguistic minorities are really Greeks, and therefore that their differences, including the linguistic ones, are not important, the Turkish-speaking minority, although they are Greek citizens, are seen as foreign to the Greek race and culture, and no demands are made for their collective Hellenization only on an individual basis. The fact that the race and culture of a minority group coincide with those of a neighbouring country with whom Greece has traditionally had tense relations helps to strengthen this attitude.

Although the linguistic policy of Greece could be defined as saying that only Greece is recognised as the language of Greece, it is worth recalling that the controversy over which form of Greek should be recognised as the "normal" and "official" language have fuelled a real linguistic war lasting many years between supporters of "Katharevoussa", the formal written language, and those of "Demotiki", the popular language.

The distinction may go back to classical times when different dialects were spoken in the different Hellenic regions, of which the one spoken in Attica (Athens) was considered the most prestigious and suited to learned uses, while the needs of commerce and the community produced a "koine" or common language. Later the Orthodox Church took up and developed the educated language, and kept it alive during the centuries of Ottoman occupation. When independence arrived, the language of the Church, identified as a symbol of nationhood and as a holy language, a national language and a language of learning, became the official language of the new State – that is, the language of the laws, literature and educated discourse, and the language of teaching.

However, during the centuries that had passed the language spoken by the Greeks had evolved considerably, just as Latin, for example, in similar circumstances had lost some of its declensions. Thus the distance between the popular language and the educated language used by the church had become immense. This had grave social consequences, increasing the distance between classes and soon it began to be questioned. Writers interested in "naturalism" began to use the popular language in their work, and they were followed by popular politicians in their speeches, so that the question took on a political significance. In any case, the task of putting the popular language in a condition to be used for all literate purposes required a great effort which needed a lot of time and could not be improvised and which was supported at length until the 60s, when the replacement seemed imminent. The colonels' regime blocked this process for a

Multilingualism in Greece (contd.)

time and it was not until 1977 that popular Greek, "Demotiki" or neo-elleniki was declared the official language and its use obligatory.

– Turkish-speaking –

Thrace is a region situated in the extreme north-east of the Hellenic peninsula. Politically it is divided in two: Western Thrace which forms part of Greece, and Eastern Thrace, which forms part of Turkey. They are separated by the river Evros which forms the frontier between the two countries.

Western Thrace, where the Muslim minority protected by the Treaty of Lausanne is found, has an area of 8,587km^2 and a population of 329,582 according to the 1971 census. Administratively it is divided into three prefectures: Xanthi, Rodhopi and Evros. The region is mainly agricultural where the ground is fertile and sparsely populated.

When the Treaty was signed in 1923 the population of Western Thrace was mostly Muslim of which an important part was Turkish-speaking. Since then, significant migration has taken place to Turkey, to the interior of Greece in much smaller numbers and in recent years to Germany. In parallel with this, Greeks went to Thrace to settle, especially in the first year after the Treaty, mainly refugees from Asia Minor.

According to the most recent estimates, the Evros prefecture is composed of 144,000 Christians and 11,000 Muslims among whom 2,000 are Turkish-speaking, 2,000 are Pomaks and 7,000 are Gipsies. In the prefecture of Rhodopi there are 67,000 Muslims among which 46,000 are Turkish-speaking, 12,000 are Pomaks and 9,000 are Gipsies. The Christian population is of about 51,000 inhabitants. Furthermore, the prefecture of Xanthi is composed of 42,000 Muslims, among whom 11,000 are Turkish-speaking, 25,000 are Pomaks and 6,000 Gipsies. The Christian population of Xanthi is of 46,800 inhabitants.

In accordance with the Treaty the Muslims of Thrace maintain their own religious institutions. In fact according to the available data, there are 250 mosques in the region with their servants and 3 muftis – religious authorities who under Islamic law (servat) arbitrate in marriage agreements and separations and all other questions of civil law – who are very influential in the minority.

In the region there are now for the Muslim population and paid by the Greek State, 163 schools with 474 teachers and 10,945 pupils. Around half of the subjects are taught in Turkish. There are also some newspapers and weekly magazines in Turkish and the local radio programmes include news broadcasting in Turkish. And also members of the Greek Parliament are Muslims who come from this area.

Although within the region there are some areas where Greeks predominate and others where the majority are Muslims, in most of them members of both communities live side by side, and thus it is common to find mosques and Orthodox temples, Greek schools and Muslim schools, within the same local area. However the two communities are clearly distinct, in their customs and tradition, in their language and religion. Mixed marriages are practically unknown. This is problably a result of the isolation within this society of the Turkish-speaking minority, who not only maintains its beliefs, but whose level of religious adherence is notably higher than that in Turkey, which is its cultural model.

Despite such differentiation, relations between the two communities do not give rise to serious problems, and at local level conflicts are rare.

There are, however, some complaints at local level, sometimes they are made to the Parliament or they come from outside Turkey. More recently, complaints also come from groups of immigrants in Western Europe. Nevertheless, it is to be noted that out of the 240,000-strong Greek minority in Istanbul in 1923, there are only about 4,000 old people left.

– Pomaks –

As has already been indicated when we mentioned the Turkish-speaking minority, there is a population known as Pomaks, with a Slavic language and Muslims by religion, who live together with the Turkish-speaking people in Western Thrace and who, like them, are protected by the Treaty of Lausanne. In 1971 the number of Pomaks living in Western Thrace was estimated at 27,000, 20,000 of them in the prefecture of Xanthi and the rest in Rhodopi in Western Thrace, and these figures have changed very little since then. The Pomaks are a small minority in absolute terms and also relatively, since they make up only 7% of the total population of Western Thrace and 35% of the Muslim population. In addition to this, they live scattered over a hundred or so villages and hamlets in most of which they are in a majority.

The historical origin of the Pomaks is not clear. The most widely held opinion, is that they are descendants of a people who were settled in the Balkans, who acquired a Slavic language as a result of Slavic invasions, and later acquired the Muslim faith (17th century). In any case, during the Ottoman Empire the Pomaks enjoyed a certain autonomy. Despite this they participated actively in the wars of independence against the Turks, and even managed to establish an ephemeral 'Pomak republic', but their aspirations were never realized since when the frontiers of the new States were fixed, most of them were included in Bulgarian territory, and the most southerly were included into Greece.

Since it was founded, the Bulgarian State considered the language spoken by the Pomaks to be a dialect of Bulgarian, and carried out a policy of "bulgarization" of the Pomaks, a policy which on several occasions brought protests and caused violent incidents, and even emigrations to Turkey.

The Pomaks have a cultural history of their own of which they have maintained at least the language, which is thus their principal sign of identity and cohesive bond. Since they are citizens of a country whose language is Greek, they have to know this language and use it in dealing with the Administration and in all formal circumstances in general. Apart from this, Greek is the language of most of the communications media (press, radio, television). And because they are members of a religious community whose main language is Turkish, they have to know this language too – not only that, but Turkish is the language through which they are taught in schools, and through which they receive what little information does not come to them in Greek. Thus the Pomaks' own language is used exclusively within the family or for colloquial interaction with friends and acquaintances.

– Slav-speaking –

Although the massive resettlements of population which followed the end of the Balkan War provoked the exodus of no less than a quarter of a million Slav-speaking people from what had become Greek Macedonia, there were also a certain number who preferred or managed to remain in their places of origin. As we have seen, the 1951 census put this figure at something around 40,000. Probably at the time of the census the real figure was much higher, but since then it must certainly have diminished, since these were inhabitants of rural and mountain

(continued over)

Multilingualism in Greece (contd.)

areas which have seen heavy emigration to the cities, with the consequent abandonment of the language.

For those who continue to live in their original places the situation of their language is extremely precarious. It has no official recognition, neither in theory nor in practice. Education and religious ceremonies are both carried out exclusively in Greek, and the same is true of the communications media, so that the language remains used only within the family, and even there the children and young people today tend to prefer Greek.

The only possibility of compensating for this would involve some help from the Greek authorities. Indeed, as has been noted from the beginning, the question of linguistic minorities touches a sensitive nerve in Greece, and in the case of Macedonia this sensitivity is extreme.

In the last century, during the struggles with Turkey that were to shape the modern political map of the Balkans, the aspirations of several emerging nations converged on the vast region known as Macedonia. Finally the Macedonian territory, whose boundaries were never clear, was divided between Greece, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, which inherited Serbian aspirations. Between the wars, Bulgaria considered itself the natural protector of all the southern Slavs, and also of the Slav-Macedonians, and the Communist International included in its plans for the Balkans the creation of a Macedonian State. This plan was finally abandoned, but it had some influence on Tito's decision to give the name of Macedonia to the southern territory of Yugoslavia, now a federal republic. From the Greek point of view the fact that the Yugoslav government chose to adopt the geographical name Macedonia (a Greek name since antiquity) to identify exclusively a Yugoslav republic, its slavonic people and their language, is a denial of Greek cultural heritage in Macedonia and, by implication, a harbinger of long-term irredentism vis-à-vis Greek Macedonia.

– Aromounes (Vlach) –

The Valacos or Aromounes as they are also known, are the modern descendants of a population probably settled in the Balkans in very ancient times. They were romanized, and acquired the Latin languages, from which evolved a neo-Latin language different from, but related to Roumanian. For a time in the low Middle Ages the Valacos had powerful independent kingdoms, and in the years of Turkish rule they enjoyed a certain amount of autonomy. However when the new Balkan States came into being, despite having been promised respect for their identity, they emerged, in practice, with no political structures of their own. Most Vlachs in the Ottoman-held provinces had endorsed Greek political, educational and cultural causes. Between the two great wars Rumania, considering that the language was clearly related to Rumanian, exercised a policy of attraction towards the Aromounes, establishing language teaching institutions where young Aromounes could learn the Rumanian language. This policy was later abandoned in practice, but the memory of it still arouses suspicion in Greece, because during the Second World War Rumanians tried to appropriate part of Greek territory by establishing a Vlach principality, administered by Rumanian oriented Vlachs.

There are no reliable estimates of the current number of Valacos in Greece who still know and use the language alongside Greek. The 1951 census lists 40,000 Vlach speakers. The Greek Valacos are found scattered across Thesaly, Pindus and Ipiros, that is, in the mountainous regions of the Hellenic peninsula. There are also Vlachs in Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. This is not fortuitous. The reason the Valacos managed to resist Slavs and Turks for so long and retain their own identity is that they took refuge in the mountains, where they specialized in pastoralism. But though this isolation has been enough over the centuries until now to ensure the survival of the language, nowadays it no longer suffices. The educational system, the church and television use Greek exclusively. Valaco is confined to family and colloquial use and is even beginning to be looked down on by young people in favour of Greek, which is linked to modern urban life. In these conditions its disappearance seems inevitable.

There are however some positive factors. Emigration has been very heavy, but only at the lowest social level. A certain number of Valacos have managed to make their way in Greek society. Furthermore, bonds of solidarity have emerged between Valaco emigrants in the cities, and associations have appeared, some of which try to keep up the language and improve its status.

The recent year interest in the Vlachs in Greece is attested by numerous articles in the press, radio programmes, and even four doctoral dissertations in Greek universities. It is possible to imagine that the combination of these efforts with a margin of tolerance and support by the Greek government could ensure the survival of this group.

– Arvanites –

The Arvanite language is a branch of the great Indo-Germanic language which has survived thanks to centuries of isolation of the populations who speak it in certain regions of the Balkans, primarily in Albania and in certain parts of Yugoslavia, but also in isolated parts of Greece and Italy. Among the Greek there are descendants of those who emigrated from Albania at the end of the Middle Ages. A similar emigration explains the presence today of Arvinite villages in the south of Italy. It is very difficult to decide how far the language spoken in these places has maintained its unity, or whether it has fragmented into many dialects which are mutually intelligible.

Like other minority languages referred to here, Arvanite enjoys no official recognition nor public presence. The Arvanite consider themselves the original inhabitants of Greece and make a great show of their patriotism.

According to the 1951 census, the number of Arvanite-speaking people was of about 23,000, while the number of those who declare themselves of Arvanite origin might be clearly larger (100,000-400,000). The ambiguity of these figures indicates the need to carry out more systematic analyses.

The Arvanite live in isolated places scattered over a very wide geographical area which includes mainly the central and southern part of Greece. Even when they form the majority in a village, their language is used only within the family and between neighbours.

While the rural agricultural society in which the Arvanites lived kept its traditional characteristics, isolation ensured the preservation of their language, but nowadays this isolation is diminishing. School and education, as well as written and audiovisual communication media, are becoming more and more influential.

In such conditions, the future of the language seems very bleak. It could certainly be improved by some measure of collective awareness, but the fact that the Arvanite live in small isolated populations widely separated from each other makes it difficult for any kind of collective feeling to appear. Nor do there seem to be associative movements among emigrants to the cities, as has happened among the Vlachs.

Set of principles on national minorities drawn up by the European Commission for Democracy through Law

The 'European Commission for Democracy through Law' is a consultative body established last year under the aegis of the Council of Europe. It is supported by the Council, the Italian Government and the Veneto Region. The preparation of the set of principles on national minorities, published hereunder, is one of the first documents to emanate from the Commission.

Introduction

The European Commission for Democracy through Law set up by the Resolution adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 10 May 1990 started to examine the problem of the protection of minorities in Europe.

For the time being, it has agreed on a number of principles which apply to national minorities, i.e. groups of people who are nationals of the State concerned and which could be incorporated into a legal instrument.

To this end they will form the basis of further work and in-depth study.

The Commission already believes that the drawing up of a binding European legal instrument would offer in the long run the best solution to these problems.

The experience and results already obtained, notably in the field of Human Rights as well as of other intergovernmental and parliamentarian works on minorities under way within the Council of Europe, could make this Organization the appropriate forum for the continuation of this initiative.

I. General Principles

1. The international protection of ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities must be a fundamental component of the international protection of Human Rights, and as such fall within the scope of inter-State co-operation. It represents a basic element of peace and stability in Europe.

2. The international protection of minorities does not permit any activity which is contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and in particular of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

3. The international protection of minorities must be conducted in good faith, in a spirit of understanding, tolerance and good neighbourliness between States.

4. For the purposes of this text, "minority" shall mean a group which is smaller in number than the rest of the population of a State, whose members, although nationals of that State, have ethnical, religious or linguistic features different from those of the rest of the population, and are guided by the will to safeguard their culture, traditions, religion or language.

Any group complying with the terms of this definition has the right to be recognised as an ethnic, religious or linguistic minority.

II. Rights of Minorities

5. Minorities have the right to the respect, safeguard and development of their ethnical, religious, cultural or linguistic identity.

They shall have the right to be protected against any activity capable of threatening their existence.

6. Any person belonging to a minority has the right to enjoy the same rights as any other citizen, without any distinction and on an equal footing.

The adoption of special measures in favour of minorities or of their members, aimed at promoting equality between minorities and the rest of the population or at taking due account of the specific conditions of minorities, is not considered as an act of discrimination.

7. Any person belonging to a minority shall have the right to associate and to maintain relations, notably with other members of the same group, including across national borders. This right includes notably the right to leave one's country and to go back to it.

8. Any person belonging to a minority shall have the right to a real participation in the State's affairs, and in particular in the decisions affecting the regions where he lives.

9. Any person belonging to a minority shall have the right to his own cultural life.

10. Any person belonging to a linguistic minority shall have the right to use his language freely, in public as well as in private.

11. Whenever the minority reaches a high percentage of the population of a region or of the total population, its members should have the right to speak and write in their own language to the political, administrative and judicial authorities of this region or, where appropriate, of the State. These authorities should have a corresponding obligation.

12. In State Schools, obligatory schooling is given in the mother tongue of the pupils belonging to a minority. However, should the State not be in a position to provide such schooling, it must permit children who wish to attend private schools to do so. The State has the right to prescribe that the language spoken by the majority also be taught in such schools.

13. Any person belonging to a religious minority has the right to manifest his religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, in worship, teaching, practice or observance, in conformity with the international instruments on Human Rights.

14. Any person belonging to a minority whose rights herein set forth are violated shall have an effective remedy before a national authority.

III. Obligations of States

15. The States refrain from pursuing or encouraging policies aimed at the assimilation of minorities or aimed at internationally modifying the proportions of the population in the regions inhabited by minorities.

16. As far as possible, States bear minorities in mind when dividing the national territory into political and administrative subdivisions, as well as into constituencies.

IV. Obligations of Minorities

17. Any person who belongs to a minority fulfils loyally his obligations connected with his status as a national of his State.

18. In the exercise of his rights any person who belongs to a minority respects the rights of others, in particular those of the members of the majority and of other minorities.

The States take all the necessary measures with a view to ensuring that, in any region where those who belong to minority represent the majority of the population of that region, those who do not belong to the minority shall not suffer from any discrimination.

V. Protection Machinery

19. To ensure that the rights set forth above are respected, it is indispensable that States study the possibility of establishing a European mechanism for the protection of the minorities.

The Sorbs – a Slavic minority in Germany

The approximately 70,000 Sorbs who live in their native region in the upper and lower Lusatian basin are the descendants of the Elbe Slavic tribes who settled in the region between the Baltic coast and the Erz mountains during the age of national migrations. They were subsequently conquered by feudal German states expanding eastwards at the end of the 10th century and lost their political autonomy. They have been living for approximately a thousand years within German borders. Today the Sorbs live side by side with their German neighbours and are concentrated largely, but not exclusively, in the bilingual, bicultural districts of Kamenz, Bautzen, Hoyerswerda, Weisswasser and Cottbus.

In spite of the emergence of a Sorbish national and cultural movement under the influence of 19th century social change, there was a steady decline of national identity due to the industrialisation of the Lusatian, greater pressure for Germanisation and the process of natural assimilation. Especially devastating for the national situation were the Nazi tyranny, the war and its consequences.

In 1948 the State parliament of Saxony enacted a law safeguarding the rights of the Sorbish population, in which for the first time legal protection and state support were promised to the Sorbs. In practice, however, the generous state support was linked to a unilateral political commitment to the ruling ideology and the existing power structures. In spite of legal equality and state support and even under the social conditions which existed in the German Democratic Republic, the Sorbs were further assimilated and their continued existence as a nation was seriously endangered.

The recent changes have prompted the Sorbs to increase their efforts to preserve their identity but have also brought about great uncertainty for the future.

In view of the fact that there is no constitutional provision in the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany for the protection and support of ethnic minorities, the Sorbish associations addressed a Memorandum from the Sorbian people to the German public.

The Sorbs regard themselves as German citizens but with a Slavic national identity based in particular on their own language, culture and history.

Regrettably, during the creation of the new federal states on the territory of the former GDR, it was not possible to prevent the administrative division of the Sorbian people between Saxony and Brandenburg.

The Sorbs view with great concern the persistent threat to their living space from the continuation of lignite mining in the Lusatian basin.

The national organisation, known as **Domowina**, which was founded in 1912, banned from 1937 to 1945 and revived as early as 10.5.1945, initiated a process of renewal at its extraordinary Federal Congress of March 1990. Domowina regards itself as a non-party political and autonomous national organisation of the Sorbish people. It is at present restructuring itself into a national umbrella organisation with the status of a friendly society.

Bernard Ziesch

FUTURE EVENTS

Sociology of Language and Speakers of Other Languages in the 1990s – A symposium in honour of Joshua A. Fishman on his 65th birthday: University of California, Santa Cruz, USA, 08-12 July 1991. For further information, contact: Prof. Ofelia Garcia, City College of New York, School of Education, New York 10031; tel.: + 1 212 650 6273.

6th Open Occitan Day – venue: F-82230 Montclar de carcin. Further information from: Robert Linas, La Eaminada, Laujac-Bélagarde, F-82230 Montclar de Carcin, tel.: + 33 63 64 57 27.

International Seminar on Language Planning – Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, 25-28 September 1991. Further information from: I Seminario Internacional sobre Planificación Lingüística, Consello da Culture Galega, Apartado 773, E-15705 Santiago de Compostela, Galicial; tel.: + 34 81 58 80 88, Fax: 58 86 99.

The 12th International Festival of Film and Television in the Celtic Countries – 18-22 March 1991 – Eden Court Theatre complex, Inverness, Scotland. Further information from Mairi Nicholson, Festival Organiser, Celtic Film and Television Festival, Culloden Centre, Keppoch, Culloden, Inverness IV1 2LL, SCOTLAND; tel.: + 44 463 79 30 50 or 79 32 82, Fax: 79 33 93.

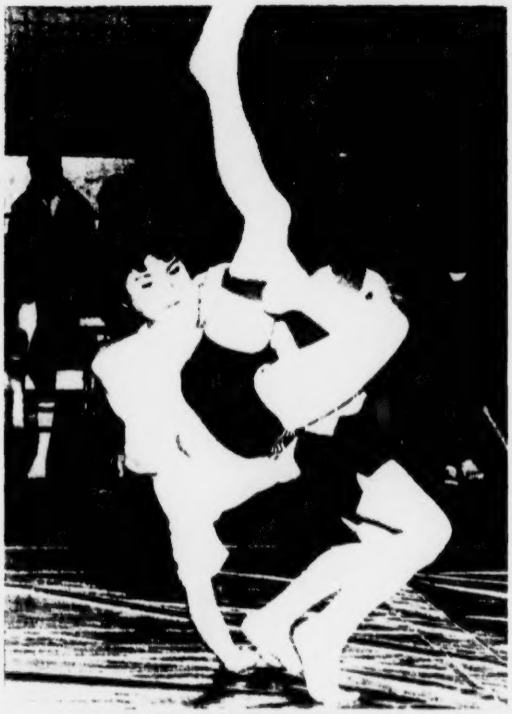
Conference/Seminar on the Maintenance of Gaelic and the Sociology of the Gaelic Commuity – Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Sleat, Isle of Skye, Scotland; 11-13 April 1991. Further information and offers of papers/posters etc. to Dr. Kenneth McKinnon, Ivy Cottage, Ferintosh, The Black Isle, by Conan Bridge, Ross-shire, IV7 8HX, Scotland.

MINORITY SPORTS IN DANGER

The International Association of Celtic Wrestling is becoming increasingly concerned with the threat to regional and traditional sports. This concern was expressed at a seminar in April last at Berrien (Britanny) which was attended by representatives from many cultural organizations involved in the promotion and defence of regional sports.

According to representatives the demise of traditional sports will affect the social structure of Europe's future in that basic elements of our culture will begin to disappear and regional communities, which practice traditional sports, will be badly affected as part of their traditional social values continually erode.

On a more optimistic level, however, the April seminar showed clearly that there are organizations and individuals who share a great interest in traditional sports and who are willing to become active in protecting and promoting them. To this effect 8 seminars on this theme have taken place in the past three years. This level of interest inspired participants at the Britanny seminar to look for ways in which official recognition could be sought. To this effect a resolution was passed and approved by the 30 organizations represented at the seminar. This resolution calls for legislation ensuring official recognition for the traditional games of Europe and for the setting up of an organization such as the European Bureau which would coordinate the promotion and defence of these games. The Rainbow Group in the European Parliament has already expressed an interest in this initiative.



For further information contact: Fédération Internationale des Luttes Celtiques. Guy Jaouen, 18 Maenig an tri person, F-29260 Lesneven.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Die Nationalen Minderheiten im schleswigschen Grenzland 1920-1925'– Imme Doege and Manfred Jessen-Klingenberg. Accompanying text for slide series, Nr. 3.

The Sami People – Sámi Instituhtta/Davvi Girji O.S., 1990. ISBN: 82-7374-061-7. An account in just under 200 pages of the indigenous Sami population which forms an ethnic minority in Finland, Sweden, Norway and the Soviet Union. Complete with photographs and maps.

Diccionari Frances-Occitan – Christian Rapin (400 pages). This, the first volume (A-B) of a French-Occitan dictionary, is now available. Price 150FF. Further information from C. Rapin, 'A la Caminada', Sauvagnas, F-47340 Laroque-Timbaut; tel.: + 33 53 74 34.

Essai de Description du Système Graphique de Michel Tronc – Philippe Blanchet (50 pages). An example of 16th century Provençal writing. Further information from Observatoire Linguistique, Cressenville, F-27440 Ecouis.

NEWS FROM WALES

Phone Book

Welsh speakers in North West Wales have been pleasantly surprised to find a substantial amount of Welsh in British Telecom's recently published North Wales telephone book.

Cllr. Dafydd Orwig, Chairman of Gwynedd's Bilingual Policy Sub-Committee and of the UK Committee of the European Bureau, welcomed the publication as a step forward by British Telecom, although it was a long way behind phone books in Ireland, the Basque Country and Switzerland.

Welsh by Satellite

"Channel e" is an educational and informational satellite TV service which provides programmes for a European audience. Programmes are transmitted twice daily, as part of RTL-Véronique's daily schedule, on transponder 13 of the European Astra satellite dish.

Now for the first time, a minority language course is available through this satellite to an audience of 25 million. S4C, the Welsh TV broadcasting company, based in Wales, is cooperating with Channel e in the broadcast of S4C's Welsh course for complete beginners, "Now You're Talking". The programme can be received at 09.30 on Tuesdays, and is repeated on Fridays at 12.00hrs.

SPRACHKONTAKT

On the 28 September last, the working group 'Sprachkontakt' (Language Contact) in which German and Danish language experts and educationalists examine the language habits of the German/Danish border region, organised a conference in the Leck Heimvolkshochschule on "Linguistics and Pedagogy in the German/Danish Border Region".

The aim of this group, which was established in 1986 in cooperation with the Institute for Regional Development, Flensburg, and the Institute for Research in the Border Region, Apenrade, was to provide an insight into its work and methods. The conference consisted of eight lectures which covered all five languages of the border region: standard German and Danish, Low German, Frisian, and Jütisch (Sonderjysk). The languages of the border region have for many years now, been the object of linguists' and educationalists' interest. This interest has been further strengthened in recent years by the inclusion of the functions and relevance of the dialects of smaller languages in the subdisciplines of socio- and psycholinguistics. The Danish Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages was represented by its President Hans J. Nissen, who was also responsible for the content and structure of the conference. The next conference in this series will take place once again in Nordschleswig later this year.

HJN

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CONTACT BULLETIN

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SPRING 1991

Cultural Rights of the Peoples of Europe

From 5 to 8 February 1991 a seminar on "The Cultural Rights of the Peoples of Europe" was held in Girona on the initiative of the "Centre UNESCO de Catalunya" (Barcelona), in collaboration with the Human Rights and Peace Division of UNESCO and Girona City Council.

The scope of the meeting was European and it brought together figures from the social and human sciences (anthropology, international law, history etc.), figures from the cultural media, and professionals from the field of cultural development. The participants represented 24 European cultures. They were chosen for their competence and took part in an individual capacity.

Participants had the opportunity to listen to a number of reports whose richness and points of view, in spite of differences, allowed in-depth debates. Although certain differences still remain to be overcome, agreement was reached on certain points. The discussions dealt with three basic issues:

1. The present state of the debate on the rights of peoples, and especially their cultural rights.
2. The European cultural heritage and the situation of the different cultural groups and communities in regard to this heritage.
3. The rights that must be guaranteed these groups and communities in order to further their own rights and allow them control their own future.
4. Finally, since the object of the meeting was to arrive at reflections that could be taken into consideration in "guiding political decisions on cultural matters", various courses of action were put forward to different international organisations and to non-governmental organisations.

The seminar reflected on the mutual relations between such important and complex notions as peoples, nations, minorities, and cultural

(cont'd. page 2)

KORRIKA 91

In March of this year Basques celebrated the seventh KORRIKA, an event which started back in December 1980 and has not stopped growing since. KORRIKA offers all those involved in the promotion of the Basque language and culture the opportunity to come together and raise money which will enable them to continue their work in this field. KORRIKA now provides a major platform in supporting and developing the Basque language and culture.

The event itself takes the form of a relay race where the baton is passed to a new runner every kilometre. At each of these relay points participants representing various organisations, companies etc. make a financial contribution by "buying a kilometre".

This very popular event is the original idea of AEK (a Basque language organisation) which was also responsible for the organisation of this year's event.

During the last KORRIKA, in April 1989, it is estimated that over 500,000 people took part in over 1,000 different activities, all in the short space of ten days.

For this year's event the AEK had two main ideas in mind: the first was to stress the importance of an initiative where people from all over come together and cooperate in promoting and defending Basque. An organisation the size of AEK with over 30,000 pupils spread out over 200 centres with around 900 teachers, cannot be ignored by the administrative bodies of Euskal Herria/The Basque Country at a time when a new language policy is being drafted for the language.

The second main idea behind this year's event was to try and show Basque society how the language can be a link in uniting all the inhabitants of the Basque Country where Basque becomes an unequivocal expression of one's identity as a people.

Pernando Barrena

DHUUU
LIZARRA EZ DA ETSIKO
IKURRIÑA BAI

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Cultural Rights of the Peoples of Europe (contd.)

communities. These reflections will be detailed in the seminar publications.

Existing legal instruments have come in for much criticism, since they only approach the problem of the cultural rights of peoples from the point of view of the protection of the human individual (classical approach of the European Convention on Human Rights) or from the point of view of minorities (for example, the CSCE Paris Charter or the Council of Europe's recommendation 1134), when the real issue is the rights of peoples. These peoples may coincide with a state or with part of a state, or be split between two sides of the border or scattered over one or several states.

Many speakers (especially those from Catalonia) pointed out that some people formed a majority in their territory and even benefitted from powers of their own. There are a range of different situations, from the straightforward province to the federal state. Many peoples, therefore, do not consider themselves the "minorities" referred to in the texts mentioned above.

Others, while accepting the truth of these criticisms, maintain that the category of "minority", as regards the issue of cultural rights, is the one that is most acceptable and accepted in international texts. It should therefore be preserved if we are to advance the cause for the cultural rights of peoples in inter-state conferences and in intergovernmental organisations.

The addresses by the countries of Central and Eastern Europe drew the attention of participants at the Girona seminar to the enormous diversity of situations in Europe and to the urgent need for political stability in these regions. Those countries need to construct democratic regimes after decades of totalitarianism, while at the same time recognising the legitimate aspirations for equal treatment and for the cultural development of their various peoples or minorities. They must avoid the development of extreme, intolerant nationalisms which would return these countries to confrontational situations with no way out.

Common Problems

It is impossible, both in cultural matters and in any other field, to ignore the political side of the issue. This is particularly important when we are dealing with the case of a people who, like the Kurdish people, is in a totally hopeless situation as regards the recognition of its most basic rights. This is not, in Europe, the most common case. Although there are problems in almost all the states in the continent, there is reason to believe they could be regulated, in the short term, through internal constitutional debate within each state.

But discussion at the seminar underlined the fact that in the question of cultural rights there are problems that are common to all European cultures.

In fact, the dangers present in each one of the European cultures and in Europe as a cultural whole have a number of things in common, though we should remember that those cultures that do not benefit from the valuable assistance of a state of their own are particularly threatened (including the ultimate threat of total disappearance).

The dangers stem from international trading relations, which in fact ensure the cultural development of Europe, but which also work towards her cultural uniformity. Instead of the great diversity of languages and cultures that is Europe's wealth, we are often shown, on television, radio, at the cinema, in the urban and rural landscapes, a culture of little value, indifferent to national and regional peculiarities, giving priority to one language (English) above all others.

From this point of view, those cultures with small or medium-sized states (Denmark, Netherlands, Finland) are in the same position as so-called "regional" cultures like the Catalan culture. Even those we know as the "great cultures" of Europe

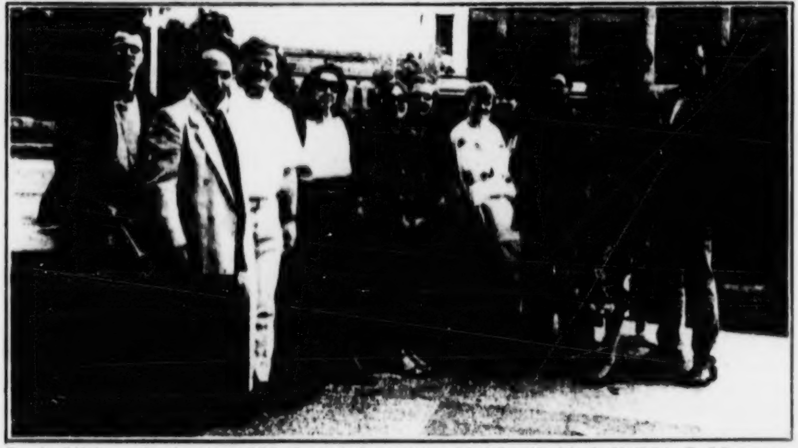
continued page 3

Study Visits for Academic Year 1990/91

Acting in accordance with the Resolutions adopted by the European Parliament on 15 October 1981 (ARFE Report) and on 30 October 1987 (KUIJPERS Report), the Commission of the European Communities launched in 1983 a scheme of study visits run in collaboration with the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. The target group will be comprised of various people responsible for the promotion of lesser used languages and cultures, journalists who are specialists on this subject, teacher trainers and researchers working in the Members States of the European Community. It is intended that those taking part in the scheme will act as "multipliers" (principal criterion of selection) of the general aims of those working for the promotion of lesser used languages and cultures in the Community.

The principal objective of the visits will be the study of educational, cultural and administrative structures relating to regional languages and cultures in the Community.

Anyone interested in taking part in the 1991-92 programme can write to their respective member state committees or to the Bureau's Secretariat in Dublin for copies of the information note.



Study Visit to Occitania, 1990. from left to right: U. Mac Dubhghall (Irl.), S. Mangano (Sicilia), J.L. Xhonneux (B), R. Macchiarelle (Sicilia), M. Uí Mhaicín (Url.), D. Bua (Sardinia), M. Nic Fhionnachtaigh (Irl.), S. Platt (Scotland), B. Amorotti (I), M. Amorotti (I), J. Sternkopf (Dk), E.J. Walberg (D).

TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC AND LINGUISTIC ETHIC

At a time when an important conference Language Rights/Human Rights has just taken place in Strasbourg, we thought it important to publish the following article by M. Blanchet. This true 'cry from the heart' refers also to language rights. The opinions expressed therein are, of course, those of the author, however, we take this opportunity to invite our readers for their reactions so that a rich and interesting debate may ensue. — **AVC**

Now that the democratic ethics of human rights are gaining foothold throughout the world and declarations on rights are being increasingly made, especially those which concern linguistic and cultural rights, it appears essential and only of common sense to respect and recognise the linguistic rights of the individual. One is inclined to concentrate too much on the rights of ethnic and cultural groups as a whole, and in doing so makes no effort to ascertain the various identities the group covers and which of these identities become the dominant ones within the group.

Yet, language is the central phenomenon of the individual and collective identity but idioms continue to allow themselves be subjected to the law of dominant minorities which assume, arbitrarily and without any democratic consultation, the right to be able to define collective identities and to manage idioms – be this on language use on a social level, or their internal functioning e.g. spelling, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary etc. And this under the pretext of so called scientific or political qualification, and totally in defiance of those who use these languages in their everyday lives. Ideologically, this is not a neutral stance and is very much part of the universal domination of certain social classes, because minority languages, generally speaking, belong to lower social classes while language policy makers belong to the higher classes.

The ability to transform groups and individuals into one single identity defined by language holds up to ridicule in two ways the democratic ethic:

– By not recognising linguistic and cultural identities which are felt and expressed by speakers and by linking them to a wider description of their language which is then classified as a "variant", languages are unable to stand on its own. This is the case, for example, of so-called "Italian dialects", "Oïl dialects", or "Provençal", described in the name of democracy, by unscrupulous elitists as "Italian", "French" or "Occitan". This negation of identity, whose only criteria of definition, acceptable from an ethical point of view, would be the democratic wish as expressed by the speakers, provokes strong feelings which are well justified amongst those concerned who are later deprived of a definite language policy.

– By some outside regulation of language use based on the view that the language is either an idiom of the dominant classes. This is very much the case at present for widespread languages such as French or English or for an artificially constructed standard language composed by some elitist (this would be the case of certain languages which are not so widespread such as Catalan or Occitan). In both cases the system is defined by the fact that it does not recognise variation, i.e. it is anti-difference and favours the arbitrary dominance of one social group. The speakers themselves have no word edgeways. The decision makers (academics, grammarians, universities, writers etc.) are not democratically elected.

Still, in 1990, reform of the French spelling system is considered a ministerial secret and is devised by "specialists". Committees and institutes who "correct" the "anglicised" and "undisciplined" vocabulary of the populace; universities and militants refine and classify certain "lesser used languages" in preparation for their eventual recognition in accordance with dominant criteria.

Within the perspective of the ethic of individual rights, how can one accept that some have the right to decide for others, without having been freely selected, without equity of what one should do with, or for, a language? In order to try and put a stop to this linguistic tyranny, I propose that recognition and respect be given to the right of speakers to use their own language, i.e. the imprescriptable right of each individual to participate democratically, by expression and by vote, in all decisions relating to that individual's first language.

The respect of a democratic linguistic ethic involves returning to the speaker his/her linguistic sovereignty, on the one hand, by acting against dictatorial language policies (which often comfort political domination of a minority) and on the other hand, by refusing to accept the non-recognition of demands for rights to express one's identity. This would imply a revision of certain linguistic criteria (especially on the level of language classification).

It is also very much a question of being aware that minority groups which belong to political or militant institutions are not necessarily homogeneous and sometimes include oppressed minorities which do not always share the same advanced demands and which, at times, produce, from within themselves, a certain dominance which they feel they are being subjected to and therefore wish to overcome. One must also be aware that minority, or lesser used language groups (even if they are numerically in the majority) escape the usual criteria fro recognition. e.g. social groups within one ethnic group).

If one takes into account that beyond the group there is the individual and that defending this or that language means defending all languages, sociolects and ethnolects, in accordance with a principle of society based on the rights of the individual, such care and rigour will impose itself. Failing this, one risks helping that which one is working against or claims to be working against.

Therefore, it is a question of the right that those who work in defending the fundamental rights of linguistic minorities should, in the first place, contribute to the respect and recognition of these minorities.

Philippe Blanchet,
XV AIDLCM Congress,
Nice, July 1990

Cultural Rights

(such as the French, the German, the Spanish and the Italian cultures) are under great threat as regards the international presence of their languages.

Faced with these problems, possible actions are those that do not oppose modernity or the free circulation of ideas, both of which are European inventions. But certain rights must be respected if Europe and each of her cultural communities are to enrich modernity by contributing their diversity and their specificity.

Among the cultural rights to be guaranteed are the right of the people of Europe to cultural recognition and to the protection and promotion of cultural identity and to one's cultural heritage. According to participants, the promotion of language and culture begins at school and each member state must ensure the teaching of ancient and modern traditions and values, and anything else that makes up the cultural identity one wants to guarantee all the peoples of Europe. One also stressed the international presence and projection of European cultures and the need for specific actions in promoting and defending such cultures.

Proposals for future action included the establishment of a charter of the cultural rights of peoples listing the rights and duties of their cultural duties. It was also proposed that more action be taken at EC and Council of Europe level in this regard and that the application of the provisions of the Paris CSCE (1990) charter be closely monitored.

Further information on the conference can be had from Centre Unesco de Catalunya, Mallorca 285, E-08037 Barcelona.

BRITANNY: STIFLING THE LANGUAGE

The last Celtic language on the continent of Europe and a cousin to Irish, the Breton language is a sister to Welsh, from which it gradually moved away as the Bretons distanced themselves geographically from Great Britain. In the 4th to 6th centuries they emigrated to settle in the Armorican peninsula, now called Britanny. The Welsh language is currently taught in Welsh schools, has its own television and radio channels and benefits from a positive tolerance by the British government, however conservative and authoritarian the latter may be considered to be. The Breton language, on the contrary, is even today exposed to systematic hostility by the French government, thereby perpetuating an age-long tradition of linguistic repression. It is perhaps a miracle that the Breton language still continues to exist, so severe and implacable have been the efforts in the last two centuries to eliminate it.

The space allowed enables me merely to relate the more outstanding facts of the long Calvary of a language condemned by a foreign power. In 1488 the defeat of the Bretons by the French tolled the knell of an eight-century old sovereignty and led up to annexation in 1532 after the marriage of Anne of Britanny to the King of France. From then on, the door was open to the facts and events that followed and are eloquent in themselves.

Policy of Elimination

1792: While having its propaganda translated into regional languages, the Revolution asserted that linguistic unification was an absolute necessity, for French was the language of liberty and of a France one and indivisible.

1831: The prefects in Finistère and the Côtes-du-Nord impressed on the Minister of Education the necessity by any means, 'of encouraging the impoverishment and corruption of Breton to such a point that one commune will not be able to understand or get along with another, The necessity for communicating will then oblige the peasants to learn French. It is absolutely essential to destroy the Breton language.'

1903: Minister Combes issued a circular forbidding sermons in Breton. Faced with the hostility that aroused, the government waived its application. In the same year, the Côtes-du-Nord school inspector, Dantzer, requested the collaboration of the Church so that only French-speaking children would be permitted to make their first Holy Communion.

The 1914-1918 War: The number of Breton-speakers was estimated to be 1,300,000 at the outbreak of the war. Out of a population of 3 million inhabitants, 240,000 Bretons perished at the Front. In October 1914, one of them, Franch Laurent, who did not understand French, was accused of being a German spy camouflaged in French uniform and was shot.

1957: The Deixonne law 'authorized' the introduction (very marginal) of minority languages into French education. The administrative memorandum making that effective was not published until 1971, twenty years later; more time gained for the stifling of the Breton language.

1972: The President of the Republic, Georges Pompidou, declared 'there is no place for regional languages in a France destined to stamp its seal on Europe'.

October 7, 1975: Day of action by teachers, pupils and their parents calling for the teaching of Breton language and culture in accordance with international agreements protecting minorities, which France had signed.

November 1975: Brussels. Aware of the negative policy of the French government regarding the right to teach the Breton language, a group of non-Breton personalities and academics founded the 'International Committee for Safeguarding the Breton Language' (in Breton: kuzul etrevoadel evit kendalc'h ar brezhoneg). In 1991 that Committee is represented in 20 countries worldwide and keeps international public opinion informed about the discriminatory treatment meted out to the Breton language.

The Time of Promises with No Tomorrow

May 14, 1984: Lorient (Britanny). A candidate for the Presidency of the Republic, François Mitterand, declared: 'The time has come to throw open the doors of schools, radio and television to the languages and cultures of France, to allow their diffusion and give them their rightful place in everyday life'.

May 17, 1984: Paris. In the French National Assembly, draft bill No. 2157 on the promotion of French languages and cultures was put forward by 282 Socialist Members of Parliament in conjunction with others (in particular, Lionel Jospin, the present Minister of Education), possessing an absolute majority. The text of the bill, which in itself constitutes an avowal of deficiency signed by elected representatives of France, refers textually to: the tradition of cultural repression by the French State in regard to minority languages; the requirement of democracy and the duty constituted in international law for the possibility for minorities to have their own cultural life, to use their own language, to open their own schools and receive teaching in their own language.

1985: Paris. Mr. Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, refused to place on the Assembly agenda this draft bill No. 2157 on the regional languages and cultures of France, despite the speeches of Breton Socialist Members and the existence of a majority of Members in its favour.

August 3, 1985: Lorient. In order to erase the disastrous impression left by the setting aside of draft bill No. 2157, Jack Lang, Minister of Culture, announced the creation of an advisory National Council of Regional Languages and Cultures. Placed under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, that Council has met only once since 1985. In the eyes of even the best disposed politicians in regard to power, that still-born body was but a poorly disguised way of burying the question of regional languages. As a result, the traditional repressive situation of those languages, denounced by the signatories of draft bill No. 2157, persisted in France in the most insidious forms: refusal to integrate into the national education system 37 of the 49 teachers of Breton in schools set up by the Diwan association; an insufficient number of teachers of Breton in State schools; scheduling the teaching of Breton at inconvenient times (lunchtime or after the school buses had left, for instance); an almost total absence of the Breton language in the media, etc.

Reactions of Agony and Despair

February 17, 1989: Brussels. Fifteen Breton militants occupied the cultural services of the French Embassy in Belgium to protest against the present situation of the Breton language and called for Breton to be taught in every school in Britanny. Called to the rescue, the Belgian gendarmarie cleared the premises of the demonstrators. The French State lodged no complaint and so avoided the Bretons using Belgian courts as a tribune for their claims at international level.

March 16, 1990: Strengthening at grass-roots level the wishes expressed by the Regional Council and the Economic and Social Committee of Britanny, 520 Breton Municipal Councils adopted resolutions demanding that the French Parliament should of its own accord or under government pressure, debate a law protecting the regional languages and cultures of France by legal statute.

Scorn for the Central Authority and Recourse to Europe

Scorning the express commitments entered by the President of the Republic and by the Ministers of Education or Culture, it seems to be the constant strategy of governments to turn a deaf ear to appeals from the people's elected representatives and to wait for the disappearance of the Breton language, deliberately stifled by its almost total banishment from the media, the administration and school curricula.

Recourse to European institutions (the Commission and especially the European Parliament, in line with the 1981 Arfe Resolution) represents some hope, to be sure, in the eyes of the 500,000 or so people who use the Breton language. Though there can still be blocking by the French government at this level, the weight of international opinion may be especially decisive in regard to a government which presents France as the fatherland of human rights. At the price of discreditable double talk, it renders itself guilty in its own territory of attacks on the rights of minorities, for which it claims to impose respect by other States.

Henri Lécuyer

Henri Lécuyer is a former senior administrator of the European fund for Regional Development (FEDER).

Editor's note

In spite of some recent successes, the result of initiatives taken by local and regional communities (road signs in Breton, increased support for Breton culture, the signing of an agreement between DIWAN and the Ministry of Education on teachers' salaries), the policy of the French state remains the same as we enter into 1991. Suffice to say that the French Government has not yet expressed its support for the European Charter of Regional and Minority languages (v. CONTACT-BULLETIN 4.3).

THE PRESENT STATE OF SCOTS

Unlike Gaelic, Scots is closely related to English and it is often asked: 'What is Scots?' 'Is it a language or a dialect of English?' It is difficult to answer such questions, because whether any mode of speech is regarded as a language or a patois, depends on the prestige we accord it.

Scots, or Lallans, as it is sometimes called, is what is left to us of the State Language of Scotland before the Union of the Crowns in 1603. This language has evolved from the Northumbrian form of Anglo-Saxon, and it has many Norse features (*Kirk* for *Church*, *Skraich* for *Screech*, *Ilk* for *Each*), and many words borrowed from French, Flemish and Gaelic. Despite the relationship with English, sentences in Scots sometimes look very different, for example: *Ilkane gangs his ain gait*.

Scots was the principal language used at the Court, the state records were kept in it, and it was spoken by everybody in Scotland who did not speak Gaelic. It had a body of literature of European standing represented by the works of Robert Henryson, William Dunbar and Gavin Douglas. At this time, Scots was adequate for every purpose of life.

This state of affairs came to an abrupt end when James VI blithely took his court with him to London, so that the language lost both the prestige associated with the Court and its principle national focus. Thereafter, because of this political development, a tendency developed to regard Scots as an inferior or corrupt form of English, and although it survived in its spoken dialect forms, particularly in rural areas, its further development as a literary language, or as a medium of communication for serious purposes was impaired.

Since the loss of Scotland's independence in 1707, many generations of Scots have had to come to terms with a situation in which they were taught English in English in school, and where the way of speech natural to them was represented as incorrect English. This created a climate in which many Scots felt that what they were was unacceptable, or something to be ashamed of, so that the sooner they rid themselves of their Scottish characteristics the better. The psychological damage which has been done by this treatment is beyond measure. It has undoubtedly introduced a schizoid element of self-denial into the national psyche.

What of the future of Scots? Over the last few decades, it has come under increasing pressure from English as a result of the influence of British radio and TV, and there is no doubt that as a spoken language, it is now being rapidly eroded. Nevertheless, it is still very widely understood. There is now considerable interest in Scots as a means of cultural expression, and it is now employed as a medium for poetry and drama.

The Lallans Society (now The Scots Language Society) was founded in 1972, with the objects: "to promote the emergence of Scots as a language and to encourage a wider appreciation of Scots literature in poetry, prose and drama." The Society publishes the journal, LALLANS, which is unique in being written entirely in Scots. The publications of the Society include *Recommendations for Writing in Scots*, which is concerned with establishing improved standards for spelling Scots.

Scots orthography is a serious problem, because there are no generally accepted standards for spelling many words. The same word can often be found spelt in several different ways in the dictionaries. Thus, those who want to read Scots may be unsure how words should be pronounced, and those who want to write it are not sure how to spell it.

During recent years, there have been a number of useful developments. We have seen the completion of the Scottish National Dictionary, The Concise Scots Dictionary and the Pocket Scots Dictionary. The Scottish National Dictionary Association now intends to go ahead with the preparation of an English/Scots Dictionary, and this would be a significant development. We have also seen the publication of Professor Lorimer's New Testament in Scots, a best-seller which appears to have been about 400 years overdue.

Although the Scots Language is a vitally important part of Scotland's cultural heritage, unlike Gaelic, it receives virtually no support from the UK Government. The contrast between the treatment most of the lesser used languages of Europe now receive from their governments and the neglect of Scots is striking. Scots, the language of the internationally familiar *Auld Lang Syne*, which was once the State language of Scotland is now officially represented as a corrupt form of English. Children are cut off from their heritage, and in this area, deracination is substituted for education. Scots is neither taught in schools nor does it receive any significant time on radio or TV. The official attitude to it is to pretend that it does not exist. Unfortunately, this is a notion that has gained some ground in Europe, a notion the existence of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages will help to dispel.

David Purves

Luxembourgish in Belgium

The teaching of a second language, in this case a regional language, Letzebuergesch (Luxembourgish), to nursery school children is the subject of a project on early bilingualism taking place since September 1990 in the school of'la Castel', situated in the town of Messancy in the French speaking area of Belgium. Letzebuergesch has been slowly losing ground to French, the official language of this region, the Belgian province of Luxembourg, situated not far from the grand Duchy of Luxembourg. There are only a few children and young people left who speak the regional language, even though mothers and fathers still use it. In an effort to save Letzebuergesch and ensure it a place in the future, "the local community fully supported the early bilingualism project", according to Stanly Demeckler from "Areler Land a Sprooch", when explaining the project to members of the Council of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages during a visit to the region last December.

"Areler Land a Sprooch", "Friends of 'La Castel'", teachers and parents all worked together in making this pilot project a success.

Since the beginning of the school year, one of the teachers, Yvette Prom has been speaking in Letzebuergesch to the 45 children who make up the 3 pre-primary classes of the school. She is the first teacher in 40 years to speak Letzebuergesch to her pupils. According to Ms Prom, the children are very eager to learn and love to repeat and answer in Letzebuergesch. There is no special course or language plan: the children are immediately thrown in the deep end. The reason the school became involved in such an initiative was not just from a nostalgic point of view, or simply to conserve and protect the language of the region, but also due to the importance of Letzebuergesch as a regional language in this border area. Those wishing to work across the border in Luxembourg need to know the language of the Grand Duchy, as this is demanded by the main financial institutions which have a major role in that country.

For the time being however, legislation does not allow for the teaching of Letzebuergesch in primary schools. The second official language of the region is either German, Dutch or English. However there are other ways in which the language can be supported according to Dónall Ó Riagáin, Secretary General of the European Bureau: "Why not take advantage of the LINGUA Programme and organize courses for teachers and students alike". Letzebuergesch at Messancy is only the beginning.

Martina Luxen

European Recognition for Catalan

On the 11 December 1990 the European Parliament adopted a resolution which opens up new possibilities for lesser used languages. Of further significance was that it was almost unanimously adopted (182 votes for, 3 abstentions, 1 against). This resolution concerned official recognition of Catalan – an official language in certain territories but not at state level, (except in Andorra which is not a member of the EC) – thus allowing it access to areas where it can continue its pursuit of full recognition as an official language of the EC. Or, failing this, an official working language, at least in the sense of it being used in relations between the EC and Catalonia, and being included in programmes administered by the EC Commission; programmes which try to create a better understanding of European languages, and which attempt to facilitate inter-European cooperation and exchange. However, one must bear in mind that the term "official" is not mentioned in the resolution, therefore creating a certain ambiguity and somewhat distancing itself from the wishes expressed by a large majority of the Catalan people.

What needs to be underlined here is, firstly, the general philosophy of the articles contained in the 'preamble' which precedes the resolution itself. They appear to be of interest to all European languages, including lesser used languages, and the preamble clearly affirms European Institutions', notably the European Parliament's, adoption of the principle of 'complete multilingualism' consistent with the respect which is owed to the dignity of all languages which reflect and express the cultures of the different people who make up the EC. Even if, in practice, the use of every language in the European institutions remains technically impossible, one must still accept the 'principle of equality where all languages are concerned'. Moreover, it is important that the EC's use of languages be seen as a necessity in order that the "people of Europe do not regard European institutions as being out of touch with, and foreign to, them. Instead they will look upon them as important elements playing a part in the daily life of its citizens.

The second point to be underlined here is that this European Parliament Resolution, the first of its kind in the history of the EC, is the result of social pressure having been applied by the Catalan people; pressure which resulted in the total unanimity in this regard of elected representatives of the autonomous Parliaments of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands. This whole affair began with a campaign which was started and supported by various non-political Catalan organizations demanding that Catalan become an official language of the EC; 100,000 signatures were delivered to the President of the European Parliament during a protest in Strasbourg on the 13 October 1987. Once again, the popular initiative was seen to be decisive in developing and exercising one's rights.

In the case of 'Catalan, a European Language' (the slogan of the campaign), everyday society will have a lot to do in order for Catalan to become a true European language, such as those already recognized as official languages. Not so much in that they are state languages, but more so in that they are European languages.

Aureli Argemi

Assimilation and Integration

Conference on Protecting and Promoting Lesser Used Languages and Cultures through the Assimilation and Integration of Newcomers to be held in Carmarthen, Dyfed, on September 10th, 11th and 12th, 1991.

This conference will draw together all aspects of language protection and promotion in areas where the predominant language is traditionally a non-state, so-called "lesser used" language, and where the on-going inward and outward movement of population creates a constant flow of monoglot "strong language" speakers.

The large scale investment in improved road networks of the past quarter of a century, and the development of electronic communication systems have facilitated movement from cities and large conurbations into rural less industrial areas, which, in the case of Wales, are the heartland of the Welsh language.

Such developments, by enabling newcomers to keep in close contact with their family and friends, and by making it more possible for their family and friends to join them, whether temporarily or permanently, have reduced the former social pressures to acquire some understanding of the traditional language of their adopted homes.

This, at a time when the emphasis on inter-state mobility focuses attention on the need for increased opportunities for the acquisition of the stronger state languages, creates uncertainty and low self-esteem amongst speakers of the lesser used languages. Without careful consideration and official structured recognition of the processes necessary to ensure a future for the non-state languages they will constantly face unfair competition in situations concerned with prioritising allocation of resources.

That is why this conference has been organised for the policy makers in our communities – elected and employed members of local government bodies and other organisations whose policies and decisions affect our social and linguistic environment.

The conference will examine means of:

(a) Strengthening the base of the lesser used languages through systematic language planning for local government and other policy making organisations.

(b) 'Marketing' lesser used languages by creating awareness of their existence and importance through organised community education and the implementation of marketing techniques.

(c) Encouraging and enabling speakers of the lesser used languages to develop skills relevant to the employment requirements of their regions, thus reducing the need for skills-related inward and outward movement and so allowing more time for assimilation.

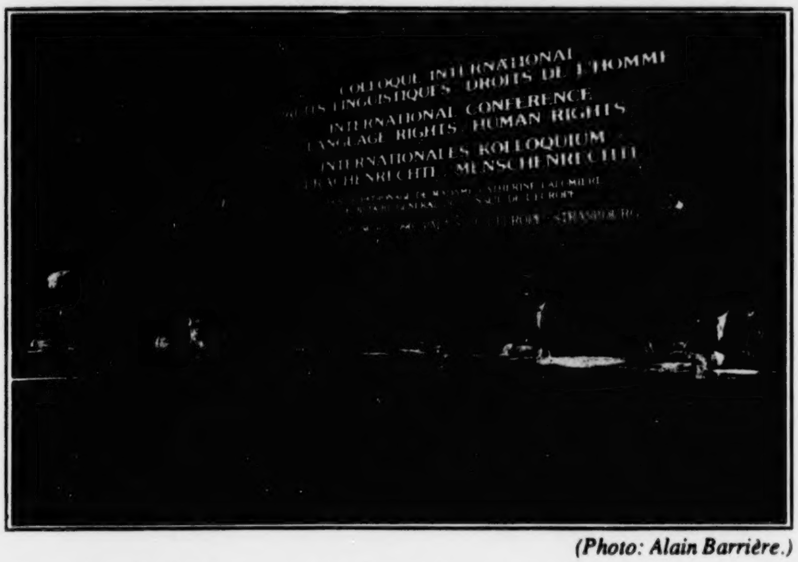
(d) Ensuring that effective provision for the acquisition of the lesser used language by newcomers should be conveniently available to all.

(e) Encouraging the development of community initiatives aimed at increasing the vitality and extending the domains of the lesser used languages.

It is hoped that all European minority regions will be represented at the conference. Any information concerning possible relevant presentations in the form of exhibition displays, or video 'Show and Tell' sessions are welcome.

For more information contact: Llinos Dafis, Cydweithgor Dwyieithrrwydd yn Nyfed, 11/12 Stryd y Brenin, Caerfyrddin, Dyfed, SA31 1BH.

Language Rights/Human Rights


COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL
LINGUISTIQUES DROITS DE L'HOMME
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
LANGUAGE RIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS
INTERNATIONALES KOLLOQUIUM
SPRACHENRECHTE MENSCHENRECHTE

(Photo: Alain Barrière.)

The first conference to examine the links between language rights and human rights took place at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in November last. Researchers, language and human rights experts and sociolinguists from over 13 European Countries (East and West) as well as from Canada, the USA and Israel, spent three days closely examining the rights of regional/minority language communities which more and more are being regarded as human rights. A strong feeling emanating from this conference was the threat of a "linguistic balkanisation" overshadowing Europe, and the need to pay heed to the demands of language organisations in order to avoid this. The conclusions of the conference are being prepared by Gaetano Arfé, author of the first resolution on regional/minority languages adopted by the European Parliament in 1981. Information on the conference is available from the organisers: 'Cercle René Schickele Kreis', 31 rue Oberlin, F-67000 Strasbourg; tel: +33 88 36 48 30.

Taking part in one of the sessions were (from left to right): Mr Guy Sautter (Vice President, Region of Alsace), Mrs Catherine Trautmann (MEP and Mayor of Strasbourg), Prof. Michel Denis (President of Breton Cultural Committee), Anna Vari Chapalain (President of European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages), Mr de Puig (Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and representing Catherine Lalumière, Secretary General, Council of Europe), Henri Giordan (CNRS, Paris).

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Selbst die Götter haben sie uns geraubt – Rainer Hörig. An account of the Adivasi people of India, complete with photographs and maps. Published by the Geselleshaft für bedrohte Völker, Götingen, Germany. ISBN 3-922197-26-4.

Poéterity – Editor, Marie Dequé. Collection of poems in Gallo with French translation. Published by LE LIAN, BP 2518, F-35025 Rennes cedex. Price FF70.

The Catalan Language Today – Mireia Carulla. Published by the Catalan Institute for Sociolinguistics. 43 page booklet on the latest information and figures on the Catalan language in the media, publishing and everyday life. Further information from the Generalitat de Catalonia, Barcelona.

MERCATOR Guide to Organisations providing information on lesser used languages – published by Fryske Akademy – Mercator, Doelestrjitte 8, NL-8911 DX Ljouwert/Leeuwarden. A guide intended to give information on European lesser used languages (or minority or regional languages) i.e. all indigenous languages which are not the dominant languages on the level of the European Community member states where they are spoken.

An in-depth study of the situation of minorities in **Schleswig (D/DK)** is now available. This book of over 200 pages is part of a thesis recently finished by Dr. Carl Boehm. It is not available in bookshops but can be obtained direct from the author. For further information, contact Dr Carl Boehm, Bachstr., 141, D(W)-2000 Hamburg 76.

Colabhairt Eadarnaiseanta mu Ullachadh do Mhionchanainean/International Conference on Provision for Minority Languages – Conference Report. This, the final report of the above conference, which took place in October 1989 (see CB Vol 7, No. 1), is now available from the Education Department, Western Isles Islands Council, Stornaway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland.

FUTURE EVENTS

International Conference of Barcelona on Multilingualism 4-6 April 1991. Further information from: OTAC, S.A. Congresses Organisation, c/o Sepúlveda 45-47, E-08015 Barcelona. Tel: + 34 3 325 25 46 and 423 94 08; fax + 34 3 325 27 08.

The 18th Nationalities Congress Budapest. 9-11 May 1991. Organised by the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) the conference will discuss Hungarian minorities abroad and ethnic groups within the Republic of Romania. For further information contact: FUEN, Secretary General, Norderstr. 74, D-W2390 Flensburg.

International Conference on Maintenance and Loss of Minority Languages – Leeuwenhorst Congress Centre, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. 31 August – 4 September 1992. Further information from: K. Jaspaert, Faculty of Letters, University of Louvain, Blijde Inkomststraat 7, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium. tel: + 32 16 285367; fax: + 32 16 285025.

Seminar – School and linguistic minorities in Italy today 13-15 September 1991. For further information, contact: Istituto di Ricerca e Documentazione Storica delle Prealpi Venete e della Lingua Cimbra, Agostino dal Pozzo, I-36010 Roana (Vicenza) ITALY. tel: + 39 424 66014.

Lesser Used Languages – Assimilating Newcomers is the title of a conference which will take place in Carmarthen, Wales from 10-12 September 1991. Further information from Llinos Dafis, Cydweithgor, Dwyieithrwydd yn Nyfed, 11/12 Stryd y Brenin, Caerfyrddin, Dyfed SA31 1BH, Wales. (see page 7)

Nation and State: Small Nations and Ethnic Minorities in the emerging Europe – 3-5 February 1992. Further information from: Dr. Silvo Devetak, University of Maribor, European Centre for Ethnic and Regional Studies, Mladinska 9, YU-62000 Maribor, Yugoslavia.

Language, Literacy and Minorities, A Minority Rights Group Report – Dr Tove Skutnabb-Kangas (ISBN 0-946690-78-2)

This recently published (November 1990) report is an excellent resource document and should be of great practical use to all who are interested in the many facets of language related topics – languages and identity, minority languages in education, bilingualism and multilingualism to name but a few.

In this shortened version of her original report (which is available on special request from the Minority Rights Group) Dr Skutnabb-Kangas succeeds in showing that the large majority of the world's states are de facto multilingual; that in Europe there are only 5 states which can reasonably be called monolingual; that less than 5% of the world's 4,000-5,000 linguistic groups live in a country where their mother tongues are official languages, and that several languages disappear every year while few new ones develop. She is as concerned about this process where the world is killing its linguistic potential and diversity as environmentalists and ecologists are concerned about threats to the world's animal and plant life.

It is not surprising that she lays the blame for this destroying squarely on education. She goes on to develop it by showing how most school systems in the world are geared towards a norm of monolingualism in dominant languages. However non-formal education structures have played a large part in the maintenance of minority languages. Her use of the term linguicism (an ideology akin to racism) throws this process into relief.

This report is valuable for its clear definition of all the terms employed in dealing with language, literacy and minority cultural issues. The author examines ideologies, gives examples, compares different educational programmes, looks at the explanations for the poor school achievement in minority children and reviews the present state on linguistic human rights in a global fashion.

The clear layout, the concise style, the excellent explanatory tables, the meticulous footnotes and the very useful select bibliography should ensure that this report will find a valued place on the bookshelf of anyone who is interested in or involved with minority rights.

Máire Uí Mhaicín
Coláiste Oideachais Eaglais na hÉireann
(Church of Ireland College of Education)

THE STATUTES OF THE COMMUNES AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES OF ITALY

Despite the fact that the Italian Constitution, adopted in 1948, explicitly states in Article 6 that "The republic protects linguistic minorities with appropriate laws", in Italy there are no clear rules protecting and promoting linguistic minorities, apart from a few legislative provisions covering minorities living on the frontiers of the country – and most of these derive from international agreements or treaties. In all this time, some small steps for the protection of minorities have been taken thanks to initiatives by the Regions, the Provinces and the Communes. But the Provinces and Communes, in particular, have been hampered by an excessively restrictive interpretation of the Constitution and the legislation in force, on the basis of which the controlling authorities have denied these bodies the right to intervene in this area. In spite of this, there have been many initiatives, although these have been fragmentary and badly organized. We thus find bilingual headed notepaper in Italian and Albanian from Piana degli Albanesi (Sicily), bilingual names of streets and squares in Italian and Catalan in Alghero (Sardinia), a bilingual inscription in Italian and Croatian on the town hall of San Felice del Molise, and bilingual place-name signs in Italian and Friulan in about one hundred communes in Friuli. But these are only a few examples. They are all based on the best intentions, and represent more or less ingenious ways of getting around the obstacles placed by the controlling authorities.

Now at last the situation seems to be developing in a better direction. In June of last year, Parliament approved a law reforming local authorities, which among other things stated that Communes and Provinces must be provided with their own statutes within a year. The law does not specify the detailed content of these statutes, but one thing is certain: questions related to linguistic minorities are by no means excluded from consideration.

In this area, CONFEMILI, the Italian committee of the Bureau, promoted and organized together with the Obra Cultural de l'Alguer, public authorities in Sardinia, and with a contribution from the European Community, a national congress for communal and provincial administrators. This congress, which took place at Alghero, served to prepare some blueprints for administrators from communes containing linguistic minorities. Given the complex Italian situation, with national minorities living in border areas (Slovenes, Friulan, Ladin) and linguistic islands (Albanian, Greek, Croatian, Catalan, etc.), it was not possible to draw up a single document which could be adopted by all communes containing linguistic minorities. It was therefore decided to examine the different proposals, which ranged from a minimal formulation, containing only a general definition – for example, "the Commune in its activities and actions favours the protection of linguistic minorities" – up to a practical and specific detailed statement, such as the one proposed by AIDLCM, containing a full-scale text to be included in the statutes of Communes. This proposal contains six articles dealing specifically with the problems of equal social dignity, the use of a language other than Italian in the activities of communal bodies, the use of the language in dealings with the communal bodies, the use of the language in place-names and public and private signs, the use of the language in communal nursery schools, and economic initiatives by the communes to support associations carrying on these activities: a complete panorama of the possibilities of intervention by communes in this sector.

On the basis of this discussion, a document was prepared which indicated some operational proposals for communes, as follows:

(a) the Communal and Provincial statutes should be drafted in both Italian and the local language;

(b) the use of the local language should be allowed in all public activities involving the local authority, and in particular within the representative bodies and the bureaucratic structures of the authority in its dealings with citizens, including the provision of offices serving the public through the local language;

(c) the local language should be promoted in place-names and in the historical aspects of significant aspects of the community (banners, coats of arms, signs, etc.);

(d) fruitful cooperation should be established with the authorities and representative bodies in schools, so as to include in the planning and practice of teaching, even without explicit legal recognition, the principle of special attention to the local mother tongue as a vehicular language and a means of deepening the cultural input in the school setting;

(e) encouraging, where possible, promotional activity in all cultural manifestations and radio and television programmes, as well as in the newspapers, for the enhancement of the linguistic heritage of the community;

(f) voting a specific budget for the points previously mentioned in each financial year, with an explicit obligation of accounting to the Councils on the use of available resources for the defence and enhancement of the language heritage, for which these sums have been voted.

Another document, approved by the Congress, deals with the problems of teaching minority languages in schools.

The Alghero Congress thus represented a first opportunity to examine more closely the possibilities of action by local authorities in support of minority languages and cultures. Everything now depends on the individual Communes. But even in the past, the Communes have shown much more sensitivity to this question than has been shown by the State. Thus, the occasion of drafting local Statutes could really be decisive in securing a number of provisions – all on a small local scale but very important when taken together – in favour of linguistic minorities.

Bojan Brezigar

ALBI COLLOQUY – Declaration

Conscious of their Occitan identity, and arising out of the new concept of 'Euro-Asia', participants at the Albi Colloquy, organized by the Institut d'Estudis Occitans on the 24 and 25 November 1990 on the theme of 'Cultural identity as a factor in economical development', issue the following communiqué:

– only free control of the economy will enable large projects to be undertaken without identity being denied. Emphasis needs to be placed here on transport, production, distribution and data processing;

– in the face of mass means of communication and information, state governments must provide the means to create a modern information network to be administered on a regional level, and with international distribution;

– in order that the establishment of economic Euro-regions does not once again spoil historic nations through the creation of economic axes between rich cities, which ignore an important part of the historical territory, and which could introduce further European disequilibrium by replacing old state borders with new economic ones, it is hoped that these new Euro-regions be established on a historical and cultural basis;

– as we approach autonomy as a people, participants express their desire that European bodies take the initiative and create a forum of debate, in the shape of an assembly of representatives of the people, to serve as a centre of coordination and solidarity;

– participants expressed their full agreement with the Paris Charter, signed in Paris by 34 states in November 1990, in as far as every minority is represented without exception.

Occitania 1990

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AUTUMN 1991

Our Community's Lesser Used Languages

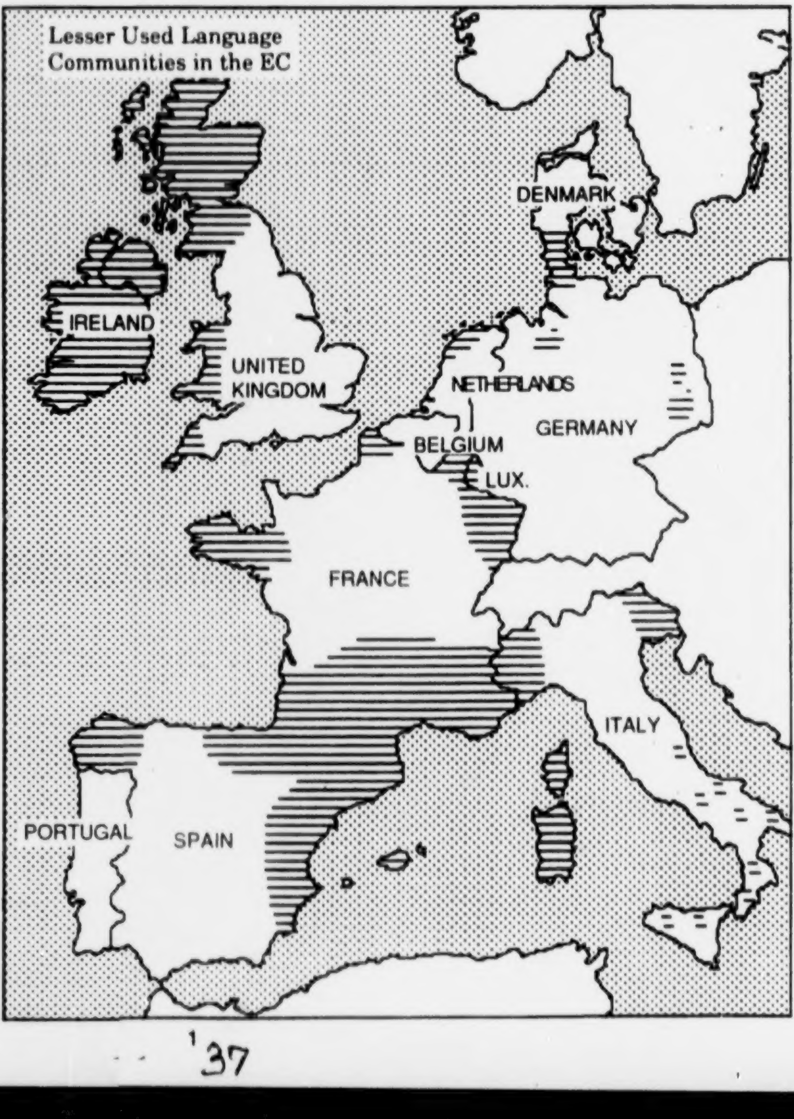
There is now a very real possibility that the new EC treaty, being drafted at present, will for the first time in the history of the Community contain articles covering the areas of culture and education. The Luxembourg Government's proposal to incorporate cultural policy and conservation into the EC treaty – as part of the reforms at present under consideration at the Inter-Governmental Conference on Political Union – is, in many ways, a reflection of the recognition that Europeans share a precious common heritage that is not only worth preserving but is also a means of bringing people together.

The passing of the EC Presidency from Luxembourg to the Netherlands will in no way diminish this thrust for the recognition of the cultural dimension – including the languages and cultures of smaller groups. The Netherlands Minister for Culture, Mrs. D'Ancona, addressing the Committee of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) on 10 April in The Hague underscored the importance of Europe supporting culture, not just at member state level but at community level also. She said:

"... the European process of integration has also stimulated the awareness of nations of their own national and regional cultures and of the pluriformity of the European culture, which could possibly be threatened by unification and increase in scale... On the other hand, it is realised that the pluriform cultural heritage in Europe is served by the preservation of national and regional cultural cultures, and in this connection of the national and regional governments' own roles and responsibilities".

Another European politician who is thinking along the same lines is Ireland's Minister of State for European Affairs, Máire Geoghan-Quinn TD. At the presentation of awards to winners of an art competition organised by the Irish Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages on 30 May 1991 Minister Geoghan-Quinn stated that Ireland was the first country to put forward a proposal that a text be included in the new EC treaty which would refer to education. "As far as culture is concerned", the Minister stated, "we put forward proposals to the Commission concerning the text of the article which is to be proposed. There was a reference in our proposed text to lesser used languages. In the text the Commission proposed, there was a reference to the respect which should be accorded to the linguistic and cultural diversity of the

Continued back page


Lesser Used Language Communities in the EC

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GERMANY

DANISH

Danish territory used to include, as well as modern-day Denmark, almost all of Schleswig and the southern part of Sweden. At the time of the Lutheran reformation, Danish was replaced in much of Schleswig by German, which had begun to spread there in the Middle Ages. With the growth of German infiltration, the Danes of the area ended up as a minority. The history of this German-speaking minority goes side by side with the history of the Schleswig-Holstein region, which has always been a bone of contention between Danes and Germans. The Germans conquered it in the Middle Ages, and returned there after the Reformation.

The reigning dynasties of the two countries alternated in control of the territory. Soon, however, the dominant idea came to be autonomy, accompanied by union with the Danish area. Between 1808 and 1864 the region was annexed to Denmark, and returned to Prussia in 1866 as the Province of Schleswig-Holstein. This period, then, marks the formal beginnings of the Danish minority in Germany.

In the region a dialect close to Danish is spoken; standard Danish is also understood by the majority of the population.

A Frisian group is also resident in Schleswig-Holstein; for these, see the section of "Frisians in Germany".

In the absence of official estimates, the data provided in 1983 states that a variety of Danish is spoken in Germany in the region of Schleswig-Holstein (geographical area 5,177.80 square kilometres) by about 50,000 people (who have stated that they belong to the Danish community) out of a total of 591,399 inhabitants. According to estimates by researchers, however, out of these 50,000 people only 8,000 speak this language today in their normal everyday relationships.

The Danish language has been used for teaching in private schools in the state since 1920, while in public schools it has only been taught since 1980.

Over the years, there has been a constant increase in the number of private Danish schools: from 2 schools with 348 pupils in 1920 to 57 schools with 6,445 in 1979. A single higher school (in Flensburg) facilitates entrance to both German and Danish universities. Thus, young people who wish to complete their higher studies through Danish must attend schools far from home.

The only minority recognised in Germany is the Danish community of southern Schleswig. German, however, is the official language of the region.

Danish in Germany, therefore, does not have official legal recognition, nor have demands been advanced in this direction because there has been a bilateral declaration between Germany and Denmark since 1955 which protects their respective minorities as regards the use of a minority language (Bonner und Kopenhagener Erklärungen).

This declaration is not a law, but a collection of commitments. Among other things, it ensures that every citizen may use his or her own language in court, and in dealings with the administration, and it stipulates that all public notices must be published in minority as well as majority newspapers. Furthermore, all citizens have the right to maintain relationships with their own country of origin.

As a consequence of this state of affairs, the condition of the Danish minority in Germany is generally agreed to be satisfactory, especially as regards the school system for the minority.

Thanks to the agreement of the governments of Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1955 (Bonner und Kopenhagener Erklärungen), the Danish minority may be considered as equivalent as those minorities protected by international agreements, such as the German minority in Alto Adige/Südtirol, and the Slovene minority in the province of Trieste.

Given this situation – which may undoubtedly be considered a privileged one in relation to other minorities – the Danish group in Germany enjoys wide linguistic and cultural freedoms.

The formation of associations is very widespread and lively within this minority.

There is a newspaper called "Flensborg Avis", founded in 1869, and supported by about 7,000 subscriptions, many coming from foreign readers. It is financed by the Danish state and by private organisations.

Between 1958 and 1974, the newspaper "Südschleswische Heimatzeitung" was published in German. This was the voice of the Danish community. After 1974, this paper merged with the "Flensborg Avis", which thus became bilingual.

Another publication is the monthly paper "Kontakt", published by the office of Public Relations of southern Schleswig. There are no radio or television stations broadcasting in this minority language, but it is possible to receive television and radio from Denmark which regularly devotes features and news items to this region beyond its frontiers.

In local newspapers there are some advertising announcements in Danish. (from "Linguistic minorities in countries belonging to the EC". Commission of the European Communities ISBN 92-825-5850-9.

FRISIAN

Since the middle ages the Frisian-speaking area has been contracting and today there are only three areas left where Frisian is still found: West Frisia in the Netherlands, the Staerland and North Frisia in Germany.

Frisian is a West Germanic language. It can be more exactly defined as belonging to the North Sea Germanic or Ingvaeonic sub-group of West Germanic together with Old English and to a certain degree Old Saxon. Today the concept of Frisian as a language is a convenient philological term encompassing the three main idioms of West frisian, Saterlandic and North Frisian. These idioms are all mutually incomprehensible and in the case of West and North Frisian there are further sub-divisions which are to a degree mutually incomprehensible.

West Frisian

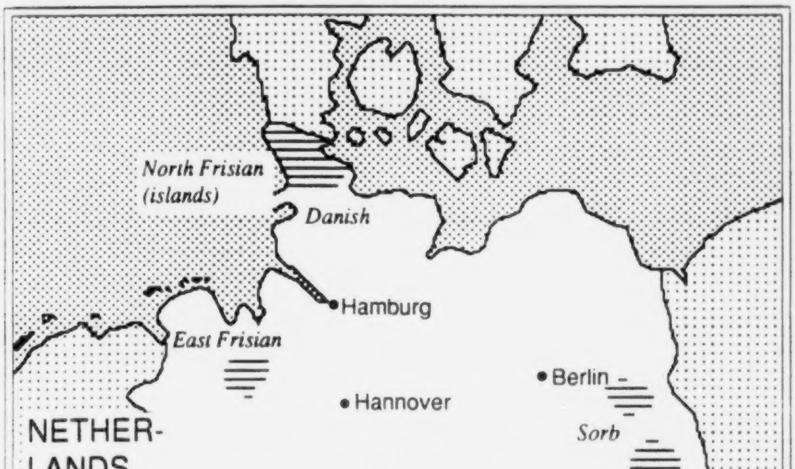
(see article on Netherlands)

Saterlandic

Perhaps one of the smallest language communities in Europe is the Saterland with about 2,000 speakers of Frisian today. It lies west of Bremen in the Landkreis Cloppenburg and constitutes the three villages of Ramsloh, Strücklingen and Scharrel.

The Saterland was originally settled by people from Westphalia, but around AD1200 Frisians coming from the coast of East Frisia colonized the area and intrioduced their Frisian language. As the area constitutes a small enclave surrounded by once impassable moorland, it had scarcely any contact with the outside world until the beginning of the nineteenth century. Even then two important features distinguished the community from its neighbours so that it could remain relatively homogeneous. As the Saterlandic people are catholic, religion separated them from their protestant neighbours in the north in East Frisia, and ethnicity divided the Frisians in the Saterland from their Saxon neighbours in the south of Münsterland.

Up to the Second World War the language community remained relatively intact and even Low German was little danger for Saterlandic as it had little prestige in the community. The first real change came after the war with the arrival of refugees from East Germany who altered the ethnic and linguistic structure of the Saterland. Shortly after this came the *Emslandplan* which introduced industry and made the area more accessible to outside influences with new roads etc. These two factors have contributed to a general decline in the number of Frisian speakers since the Second World War, and today only a few children still learn the language.



In 1961 the West Frisian Pyt Kramer published his *Seelter Woudebouk* which marked the beginning of a modest attempt to promote the language. Kramer himself published some works in Frisian, but so far only two Saterlandic Frisians have themselves taken to writing in Frisian. Most philological and folkloristic work is at present being conducted by the American Marron C. Fort.

North Frisian

The *Kreis Nordfriesland* (North Frisia) was founded in 1970 and incorporated the three previous rural districts of Südtondern, Husum and Eiderstedt. Thus for the first time the historical Frisian area was now united in one administrative unit. The *Kreis* is 2,041 sq. km in area and extends from the Dano-German border down to and including Eiderstedt. It also includes the North Frisian islands of Sylt, Föhr and Amrum as well as the *Halligen* (small tidal islets).

One important feature of this district is multilingualism, as the two standard languages of High German and Danish as well as the three non-standard languages of Frisian, Low German and Jutish are spoken here. The distribution of the language does, however, differ as some parts of North Frisia are basically monolingual, whereas others can be considered quadrilingual, if not quinquelingual.

It is possible to construct a map of North frisia according to the various types of multilingualism found here. It is, however, important to remember that if an area is depicted as being, for example, trilingual, this does not mean that all people here are in fact trilingual, but that trilingualism is found within the autochthonous population.

The use of Frisian is restricted primarily to the village one lives in and the adjoining surroundings. It is usually not possible to use Frisian outside this area as the dialects vary so much that comprehension is not assured. Thus Frisians from different parts of North Frisia usually resort to Low German as a lingua franca, or today increasingly to High German. Within the village Frisian is principally an oral medium as most Frisians are illiterate in Frisian. In conversation it can be used in all contexts within the village, assuming the partner also speaks Frisian. A language switch can, however, be induced by a change in the subject of conversation, e.g. to a technical subject, or if a non-Frisian speaker joins the conversation. There is a basic rule that each person will have assigned all his friends and acquaintances a specific language, which is usually the language the two people first met in. Thus, for example, two people who first meet in a High German discotheque will probably always speak High German to each other, even though they may speak Frisian to each other's family and friends. The exception to this rule are the more language-conscious members of the Frisian language movement, who will usually try to switch to Frisian if they discover the partner also speaks this language.

Frisian is occasionally found in the media, as Frisian articles appear in the local press irregularly. There is also a purely Frisian journal *Üüsen äine wäi* (Our own way), which appears about twice a year, and the occasional Frisian article in the periodicals *Zwischen Eider und Wideau* and *Nordfriesland*. There is only a small amount of literature in Frisian, which reflects the lack of a literary tradition and the economic problem that books have to be published in various dialects. Television and radio have so far taken little notice of Frisian as the people responsible for these media claim that Frisian programmes would have too small an audience.

One of the important features which partly distinguishes North Frisian from the other non-standard languages in North Frisia is language consciousness. There is a long tradition of a special Frisian identity which has become more marked in the course of the past twenty years, as part of the general renaissance of minority languages and dialects in Europe. This has led to an active language movement with the general aim of promoting the language and culture. One of the more tangible results of this movement has been the introduction of Frisian tuition into the schools of North Frisia. Whereas in 1975 Frisian was being taught in only three schools, at the beginning of 1991 it was possible to report that 32 schools were teaching Frisian.

(Adapted from: Alastair G.H. Walker, Frisian in "The Dialects of Modern German – a linguistic survey". Edited by Charles V.J. Ruis, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California)

SORBIAN

Today's Sorbs are the descendants of Slavs who one and a half thousand years ago took roots to the west of the River Oder. The majority of these could not hold their ground. Only the Sorbs succeeded – at an even greater cost in terms of territory, ethnic and socio-cultural identity. Luther is said to have regarded a translation of the Bible into Sorbian as a pointless exercise since the Sorbs were bound to become extinct sooner rather than later... Subsequent princes and kings tried to help things along by means of prohibitions and restrictions, in Prussia more so than in Saxony. But the Sorbs did not die out.

The foundations were laid in the middle of the last century. Jan Arnost Smoler (1816-84), one of the great revivalists of Sorbish, initiated with his "German-Wendish Dictionary" (1843) a re-Slavisation of Sorbish: Germanisms were thrown out in their hundreds, the capitalisation of nouns modelled after the German was eradicated, vocabulary and spelling brought more in line with Polish and Czech. Cultural leagues such as "Macica Serbska" (The Sorbian Fund) of 1847 popularised the new linguistic norms, and even national Serbian athletic associations such as "Sokol" (Falcon) in 1920 were active in the field of language education. Thus a solid basis was laid which even the 1937 Nazi ban on the use of Sorbian in public failed to destroy.

After the Second World War the situation of the Sorbs and their language improved but only ostensibly so. The communist regime in the former GDR nominally recognised the Sorbs as citizens with equal rights and promoted their culture. In reality, however, the Sorbs were given little and lost a lot: dozens of Sorbian villages and urban districts disappeared under new lignite coal mines. Sorbian cultural organisations were dissolved, and Sorbian periodicals degenerated into poor replicas of German-language party rags. But the Sorbian-language schools suffered the most. Whereas at the beginning of the fifties there were still 140 of them, in 1979 a mere 61 remained in existence. Of those, only eight were so-called "A Schools", i.e. Sorbian medium schools (as opposed to "B Schools" where Sorbian was taught as a *foreign* language). Of those eight, only two were "Erweiterte Oberschulen", which entitled students to go on to university, and even there, the number of subjects to be taught through German was being steadily increased. The situation was hardly any better in the academic area. Only five first years students per year gained access to the Leipzig Institute of Sorbian Studies.

On 30 April 1964 the SED (the ruling Communist Party) decreed the "7th Regulation for the Implementation of the 1959 Education Act" which, in effect, amounted to a total elimination of all tuition through Sorbian. After a few years it was annulled but Sorbian had suffered a blow from which it had yet to recover. For centuries the Sorbian language has existed in two standard varieties: Lower Sorbian and Upper Sorbian. In the middle of the nineteenth century the Lower Sorbian Protestants refused to adopt Smoler's linguistic reforms – something which weakened them in the long run and brought their linguistic conventions to the brink of decline. For this reason the leaders of the former Democratic Republic had an easy job in their subsequent efforts to snuff out the Sorbian language by refusing to grant it standard language status.

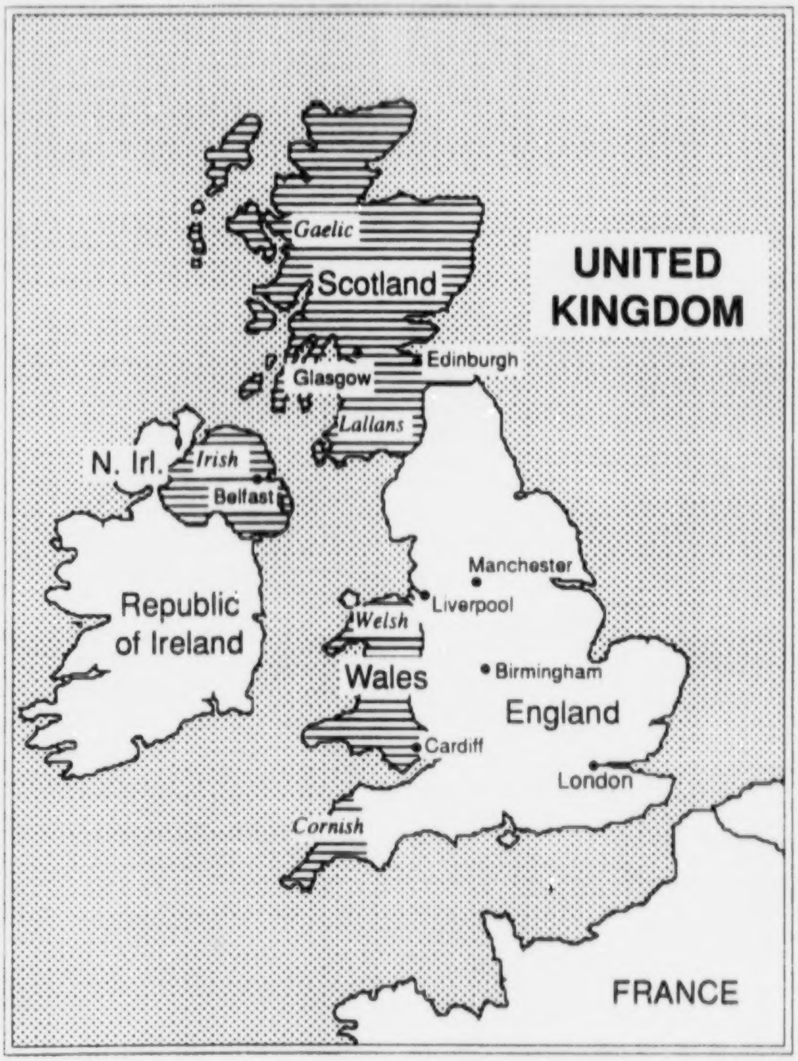
The situation in the Oberlausitz area around Bautzen is slightly better. Most of the main Sorbian institutions were concentrated in this area so that the *Upper* Sorbish has always enjoyed a certain degree of predominance in terms of language norms.

And what about the language as a whole? For decades former East Germany engrained in the Sorbs a sense of linguistic inferiority: they were said to speak a kind of hedge-school language, which, it was claimed, in the last analysis impeded their "equality". The SED, with its politics of "separation" from the East and its carefully engineered hatred for Slavs, prevented Sorbs from building, through their West Slavonic language, a bridge with the community of all 300 million Slavs. Even today there are scores of "intellectuals" to be found in the new federal states.

Of course, there are social differences within the small ethnic community of Sorbs, and the Sorbs articulate their various experiences in different degrees of linguistic competence: a farm hand at the agricultural co-op "Sorabia" will express himself about his problems with greater ease than a journalist of the Bautzen-based *Serbski Rozhlos* (Sorbian Radio) whose Sorbian is intermixed with German media jargon. This is only normal and – temporary. For whatever deficits might still exist, they can be remedied through linguistic sensitivity and discipline.

Wolf Oschlies

Indigenous Non-English Language Communities in the United Kingdom



In that part of the United Kingdom which is within the European Economic Community there are five indigenous linguistic communities in addition to the English speaking majority. These linguistic communities comprise four of the six Celtic languages (Manx Gaelic is spoken on the Isle of Man but the island is not a member of the EC, and Breton is spoken in Brittany, France) and the Lallans tongue of lowland Scotland. Norman French survives in the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey but these islands are also not members of the EC. The map above shows the broad linguistic areas covered in the following sections:

SCOTLAND – LALLANS

Lallans, sometimes also called 'Scots' is the vernacular language of Scotland south and east of the Highlands – an area which contains four-fifths of Scotland's 5,130,175 population within a total area of 78,763 sq kms. With the retreat of Gaelic from the lowlands in the fourteenth century Lallans became the everyday language of the population in the lowlands. It remained so until three events led to the upper classes turning to English – the publication of the Bible in English in 1560, the Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland in 1603 and the Union of the two Parliaments in 1707 – and of course the dominance of English in government and commerce for the last 250 years.

There is no census or estimate of the number of speakers of Lallans but any visitor to lowland Scotland, both rural and urban, cannot but notice that the language most often heard bears only slight resemblance to the English language of England. The poet Hugh Mac Diarmid did perhaps more than anyone to establish a literary language and today Scots literature is studied in the universities of Scotland. The Scottish National Dictionary – produced between 1927 and 1976 contains 50,000 words in the language. In 1985, the New Testament was translated into Scots. There is also a Scottish Language Society based in Kinross.

The Lallans tongue has no legal status. There is no formal use in public administration although it is used in spoken communication. Similarly there is no formal educational use of the language but lately it has become more acceptable as Scots Literature and Scottish History. Use of the language on television and radio is restricted to informal situations. Greater use is made of it in the press, especially in one Sunday newspaper.

CORNWALL – KERNEWEK/CORNISH

Cornwall (Kernow) had in 1981 a resident population of 373,500 persons in an area 3,565 sq kms. The last native speaker of the Cornish language

(Kernewek) died in the late eighteenth century. The present linguistic revival commenced at the end of the nineteenth century and has reached the stage where between 50 and 100 persons can comfortably converse in the language for an hour.

The language has no legal status. Use in public administration is restricted to one Town Council (Porthleven) having adopted a bilingual title and a few towns having erected bilingual signs of welcome. The language is taught in the lunch period or after school in the six primary schools and four secondary schools and can be sat for the G.C.S.E. Examination. About 200 persons attend about 20 evening classes and the Education Council of the Cornish Language Board sponsors a correspondence course – Kernewek dre Lyther. The Institute of Cornish Studies, established at Redruth in 1972, undertakes some language-related work.

Television South-West, based in Plymouth, having produced a six-part introductory course in the language which has been shown twice in Cornwall and once, with the English dubbed into Welsh, on S4C in Wales. Radio Cornwall, a BBC local station established in Truro in 1983, broadcasts a 15-minute bilingual magazine programme once a week. There is no newspaper that includes Cornish articles. The learners' magazine 'An Gannas' sells about 300 copies per issue.

NORTHERN IRELAND – GAEILGE/IRISH

Out of a 1981 population of 1,573,000 in Northern Ireland, (6 Counties; area 14,120 sq km) about 57% were 'unionists' and 43% 'nationalists'. These latter number about 600,000 and about 10% – 60,000 persons – of these are estimated to be able to speak Irish, there being no census figures available. There are few native speakers, excepting immigrants from the Donegal Gaeltacht in the Republic, although in the seventeenth century the majority of the population of Ulster was Irish-speaking. Pockets of native speakers survived in north-east Antrim, central Tyrone and South Armagh until the early twentieth century.

The Irish language has no official status of any kind in the six counties of Northern Ireland. There are no official forms in the language and use is discouraged by the Post Office and the Registrar General. Since 1737, its use has not been legal in the courts. A 1949 Act made the use of Irish in street names illegal but nevertheless over 500 Irish language street names have been erected in recent years by private individuals.

In 1969 Irish was studied in 156 of Northern Ireland's primary schools (out of a total of 1,332) by 6% of the total pupils at these schools. Sixty-seven secondary schools offer Irish and about 2,000 pupils take 'O' level Irish and about 300 'A' level each year – all from catholic schools. The two Irish-medium primary schools in Derry and Belfast have recently received central government financial assistance. In all about 27,000 pupils in the six counties' schools study Irish. A chair of Irish has existed in Queen's University, Belfast since 1849 and one also exists in the University of Ulster in Coleraine.

Until 1981 there was no Irish on BBC radio or television or Ulster Television although Irish language programmes broadcast by RTE on radio and television from the Republic could be received in some parts of Northern Ireland. However since 1981, the BBC's local station, Radio Ulster, has broadcast about 2½ hours a week in Irish. The Catholic daily newspaper published in Belfast contains weekly articles in Irish. From 1985 a daily paper, LÁ (Day) is published in Irish in Belfast and sells 1000 copies each weekday.

SCOTLAND – GÀIDHLIG/ SCOTTISH/GAELIC

From being the language of nearly all of Scotland in the thirteenth century Gaelic retreated, with the anglicisation of the lowlands, to the highlands and islands where it remained the language of the overwhelming majority of the population. In the first half of the eighteenth century three events undermined Gaelic society and its language – the Union of the Parliaments in 1707, the Jacobite Rising in 1715 and the defeat of the Highlanders at the Battle of Culloden in 1745.

Following a steady decline in the number of speakers of Gaelic in Scotland from 254,400 at the first census in 1891 to 80,000 in 1961, the number of speakers rose to 88,900 in the 1971 census.

Nearly all of this growth was attributable to learners of Gaelic as a second language during a decade of fervent nationalism in Scotland. However, by 1981 the total had fallen to 79,300 (1.6% of the population of Scotland) with a further 3,300 persons recorded as being able to read and write the language but not speak it. The stronghold of the language is the Outer Hebrides with 80% of the island's inhabitants speaking the language. In the Inner Hebrides the language remains strong in parts of the islands of Skye, Colonsay, Tire and Islay. On the mainland, pockets of native speakers remain in Ardnamurchan, Gairloch, Lochcarron, Applecross, Glenshiel and Stoer. A sizeable exile community exists in the Glasgow area with smaller groupings in the other centres of population in the lowlands. In fact, half of the Gaelic-speaking population lives outside the highlands and islands.

The legal status of the language is severely restricted in law, there being no right to use the language in the courts. An interpreter can still be obtained for a monoglot Gaelic speaker, but there is no statutory requirement for legal officials to have the language. No longer does the Land court have to have a Gaelic speaking member.

Gaelic has no part in national government and next to none in the official literature associated with national government excepting the occasional flourish of a Gaelic air – letter form, a Gaelic sign on a government building or a Gaelic leaflet issued by the D.H.S.S., Nature Conservancy Council or the Commission of the European Communities. Recently, central government has agreed to bilingual road signs and some have been erected in the Western Isles and the Skye and Lochalsh District of the Highland Region.

The Western Isles Council – Comhairle nan Eilean – adopted a bilingual policy document in 1982 and is moving towards its implementation. Positive use of regional and district councils is extremely limited although Highland and Region, Skye and Lochalsh and Ross and Gomarty District Councils have established Gaelic sub-committees.

The 1918 Education Act provided for 'adequate provision for teaching

Gaelic in Gaelic-speaking areas'. However, not until 1958 did Gaelic officially become a medium of instruction in primary schools. Comhairle nan Sgoiltean – the Pre-school Playgroup Association – provides 19 playgroups and 7 mother and toddlers groups with a total of 270 children.

Within the Western Isles, all 56 primary schools are now within the auspices of the 1976 Bilingual Education Project. A similar scheme began in Skye in 1978 in five schools and has recently been extended to all twenty schools on the Island. Elsewhere in the Highland, Strathclyde and Tayside Regions some 110 primary schools teach Gaelic, mainly through using itinerant teachers. Recently bilingual (Gaelic/English) primary schools have been set up in Glasgow and Inverness.

Around 3,000 pupils take Gaelic as a subject in 38 secondary schools, one third being native speakers. All 15 secondary schools in the Comhairle nan Eilean area include Gaelic in the common course. In most other areas a choice has to be made between French and Gaelic. There are no bilingual secondary schools, although a pilot programme has commenced in two junior secondary schools in Lewis.

Although first established in 1973, Sabhal Mór Ostaig in Skye did not admit its first full-time students on a Gaelic medium business course until 1983. Lewis castle College in Stornoway provides some Gaelic medium courses. The Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow offer a full range of Gaelic and Celtic studies courses. Aberdeen, St Andrews and Jordanhill (Glasgow) colleges of education offer varying degrees of provision for Gaelic in teacher training courses, the latter however is the only one with specialist staff.

Recent years have seen a considerable increase in the number of radio broadcasts in Gaelic. Radio nan Eilean broadcasts to the Outer Hebrides and adjacent areas in Gaelic for 111/2 hours per week. All of the Highlands and Islands receive just two hours a week of Gaelic on Radio nan Gaidheal Fachd while all of Scotland can receive 6 hours weekly on Radio Alba. Development of television broadcasting in Gaelic is far less satisfactory with an annual output of around 22 hours. Gaelic is only modestly represented in the press by occasional items in papers such as *The Scotsman* and weekly articles in *The Stornoway Gazette* and *West Highlands Free Press*. Since 1969 the Gaelic Books Council has assisted publishing of books in Gaelic, the main publishers being 'Acair' in Stornoway and 'Gairm' in Glasgow, who also publish an all-Gaelic quarterly magazine.

WALES – CYMRAEG/WELSH

In 1981, the Census recorded 503,550 Welsh speakers in a population – some 19% of the total population. Some 21,300 persons were recorded as being monoglot Welsh speakers. The highest number of Welsh speakers recorded was 977,440 in 1911 which represented 43% of the population. Probably some 90% of the speakers were mother tongue speakers and another 10% second language speakers. The years since 1951 have seen a continual decline in the number and percentage of Welsh speakers in both the traditional heartland of north and west Wales and the industrial valleys of south Wales. In the last twenty years this has been countered by an increase in both the number and percentage of speakers in south-east and north-east Wales. These two areas have benefitted from the growth of bilingual (Welsh-English) schools and the creation of employment opportunities which have attracted migrants, formerly lost to London and Liverpool.

The legal status of the language is restricted in the narrowest sense to the Welsh Courts Act of 1942 and the Welsh Language Act 1967, which removed some of the restrictions of the Statutes of Wales (the Act of Union) of 1536 and 1542. While there is still no right for most central government services to be provided through the medium of Welsh, an increasing proportion are available as a result of public pressure. However, their availability depends on the area of abode and does not always correspond with either numerical or proportional strength in the number of Welsh speakers.

In local government one county council (Gwynedd) of the eight provides a fully bilingual administration, while two others (Dyfed and Clwyd) provide an element of bilingualism. One district council (Dwyfor) operates entirely through the medium of Welsh, while six others (Arfon, Aberconwy, Ynys Môn, Meirionnydd, Ceredigion and Caerfyrddin) have a degree of bilingualism. In the remaining 31 councils there is little or no use of the Welsh language.

Of the 210,650 pupils in primary schools in 1983, 14,860 (7%) were fluent first language speakers and 13,500 were fluent in their second language. In 368 primary schools, Welsh was the main medium of instruction, a further 220 did some teaching through Welsh, 830 taught Welsh as a second language and 330 taught no Welsh at all (two-thirds were in Gwent).

In predominantly English speaking areas there were 69 designated bilingual schools (Ysgolion Cymraeg) with 12,500 pupils. There are 232 state secondary schools with 192,800 pupils. Of these 41 are designated bilingual secondary schools and have 26,000 pupils. Altogether 49 secondary schools teach more than three subjects in Welsh to forms I-V (a total of 52 subjects). Welsh is taught in forms I-V as a first language to 19,200 pupils in 80 schools, to 74,600 pupils in 128 schools as a second language while 76,600 secondary pupils are not taught Welsh. Twenty-four secondary schools do not teach Welsh at all. In adult education classes Welsh is the most popular subject with 6,280 students out of a total of 35,600. There are departments of Welsh in the university colleges at Bangor, Aberystwyth, Lampeter, Swansea and Cardiff. Several other subjects are taught through Welsh at Bangor and Aberystwyth. Bilingual colleges of education exist in Bangor and Carmarthen with Welsh departments in addition at Swansea, Wrexham, Cardiff and Newport. The use of Welsh in other tertiary sector colleges is restricted mainly to Bangor, Llangefni, Dolgellau, Ammanford and Aberystwyth.

With the advent of the fourth television channel in 1983 there are some 30 hours of Welsh programmes per week on Sianel Pedwar Cymru. Radio Cymru broadcasts an average of 70 hours per week in Welsh. There are three national weekly newspapers or magazines in Welsh and two regional weeklies together with numerous monthly or bimonthly magazines. These are supported by a network of 49 voluntary published 'papurau bro' (community newspapers).

Clive James

The Linguistic Minorities of Italy

The map of the linguistic minorities in Italy is varied and is perhaps the most colourful in the whole of Europe. Nonetheless, the half-way measures of the present legislation apply only to some of these minorities. In fact, for the three national minorities alone – the Franco-Provençal in the Aosta Valley, the German minority in the South Tyrol and the Slovene minority in the Province of Trieste and Gorizia has no legal provision been made. One further minority, the Ladins in South Tyrol, which has linked its own legal system to that of the German speakers, is in some way protected.

At present the Franco-Provençals are protected by the 'Statuto speciale della Valle d'Aosta', a Statute which however, aims to establish the French language rather than Franco-Provençal. The Germans are protected by the so-called 'package deal' which was put together as a result of the 'De Gasperi-Gruber Agreement', an agreement which has yet to be completely fulfilled. Two laws concerning education favour the Slovenes, and certain 'de facto' situations exist within the confines of the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia. There is a debate going on at the moment in the Senate concerning legislation for the global protection of the minorities throughout the three Provinces.

THE ALBANIANS

It has been estimated that the Albanian language (arberesche) is spoken today in Italy by about 100,000 people, scattered throughout the southern regions and Sicily. There are areas with Albanian populations in Abruzzo, in Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily.

The Albanian language is not legally recognised. However, some regions (Molise, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily) have shown signs of interest in these communities, yet the various proposals put forward have never succeeded in becoming legislation.

The Albanese language is neither used in public administration nor in schools. Certain private associations are active in the promotion of Albanese culture. In the Provincial Library of Cosenza there are about 1,000 volumes in Albanese. Some private radio stations broadcast in Albanese and there are also some periodicals published in Albanese. The Catholic Church allows the use of the Albanese language in the liturgy.

THE CATALANS

The Catalan-speaking population is concentrated only in the city of Alghero in Sardinia, where about 20,000 people (half the population) speak or understand Catalan. The flux of migration coupled with high immigration have, however, had a negative influence on the conservation of Catalan. Catalan is neither legally recognised nor is it used in the State Schools. No regional initiatives have been taken to gain recognition for this language.

Catalan is not used in public administration. However, there are a few private cultural centres. A section of the Catalan population is involved in the political movement 'Sardiny y Libertad' which takes part in the elections and which is present in the Town Hall Council of Alghero.

THE CROATIANS

Numerically, this is the smallest community with about 3,000 people concentrated in the villages of Acquaviva Collecroce, Montemitre and San Felice del Molise, in the Province of Campobasso (the Molise Region). The Croatian language is not legally recognised and is not used in state schools. In 1977, the region approved protective legislation which was, however, rejected by the Government Commissioner.

Croatian is not used in public administration. There are, however, some bilingual sign-posts and notices in the three villages. There is a private association called 'Nas Jesik' which irregularly publishes a bulletin. The teaching of the language depends on the voluntary contribution of its teachers.

THE FRANCO-PROVENÇALS

There are about 90,000 Franco-Provençals and over 70,000 of them live in the Aosta Valley (out of a total of 110,000 inhabitants). The others live in the Province of Turin, except for a small group of about 1,600 who live in the Province of Foggia.

Franco-Provençal does not have any legal status. It is the French language, rather, which is the subject of specific protective legislation governing its use as the official language of the Franco-Provençals in the Aosta Valley. Article 38 of the Regional Statute prescribes the equality of the languages (Italian and French) in public acts, with the exception of juridical acts which are drawn up in the Italian language.

In the schools, an equal number of hours are dedicated to the teaching of both Italian and French. The Regional Statute also prescribes that the various subject syllabuses be adequately adapted to the local needs and that the teaching of some subjects be done through French.

There are no radio or television stations which broadcast exclusively in French or Franco-Provençal. The third channel of the Italian State television (R.A.I.) broadcasts some programmes on its regional service in French and in Franco-Provençal. The news can be in Italian, French or Franco-Provençal. There are a few periodicals but no daily papers in French or Franco-Provençal.

As far as the Franco-Provençals of the Province of Turin are concerned the Piedmont Region approved a regional law in 1979 which prescribed some limited measures, which, so far, have not produced any practical results. The Franco-Provençals of the Province of Foggia do not enjoy any form of protection.

THE FRIULANS

The Friulan language is spoken by over 500,000 people in the Provinces of Udine, Pordenone and Gorizia in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. This language has no juridical status. Only in 1977, in legislation providing for the reconstruction of the Friuli Region following the 1976 earthquake, was the existence of a particular ethnic and cultural Friulan patrimony recognised.

Friulan is not officially recognised for use in public administration. Nonetheless, some local councils have, on their own initiative, introduced bilingual signposts and allowed for the use of Friulan in the councils themselves.

Since 1970, Friulan has been used experimentally in the nursery schools. Friulan is also taught experimentally in some primary and secondary schools. Cultural associations and local institutions are active in teacher training.

Certain local radio stations broadcast in Friulan and numerous periodicals are published. Some local television stations include transmissions in Friulan in their programming. From time to time, R.A.I. broadcasts programmes in Friulan.

THE GREEKS

The Greek speaking population is found in two regions, Calabria and Puglia. In Calabria, there are about 5,000 Greek-speaking people, while in Puglia there are about 20,000.

The Greek language is not officially recognised. Only in the regional Statute of Calabria is there any mention of the historical, cultural and artistic patrimony of the Greek minority. The central government, however, has blocked any action in this regard.

Greek is not used in public administration and is not taught in the schools, except for some rare exception in Calabria, where on the initiative of local councils and private bodies it is taught in certain nursery schools, and at the parents' request, in some primary schools.

Some periodicals are printed in Greek and two private radio stations broadcast programmes in the language.

THE LADINS

The Ladin language is spoken by about 30,000 people in the provinces of Bolzano, Trent and Belluno; the first two are in the Trent-South Tyrol Region, and the third is in the Veneto Region.

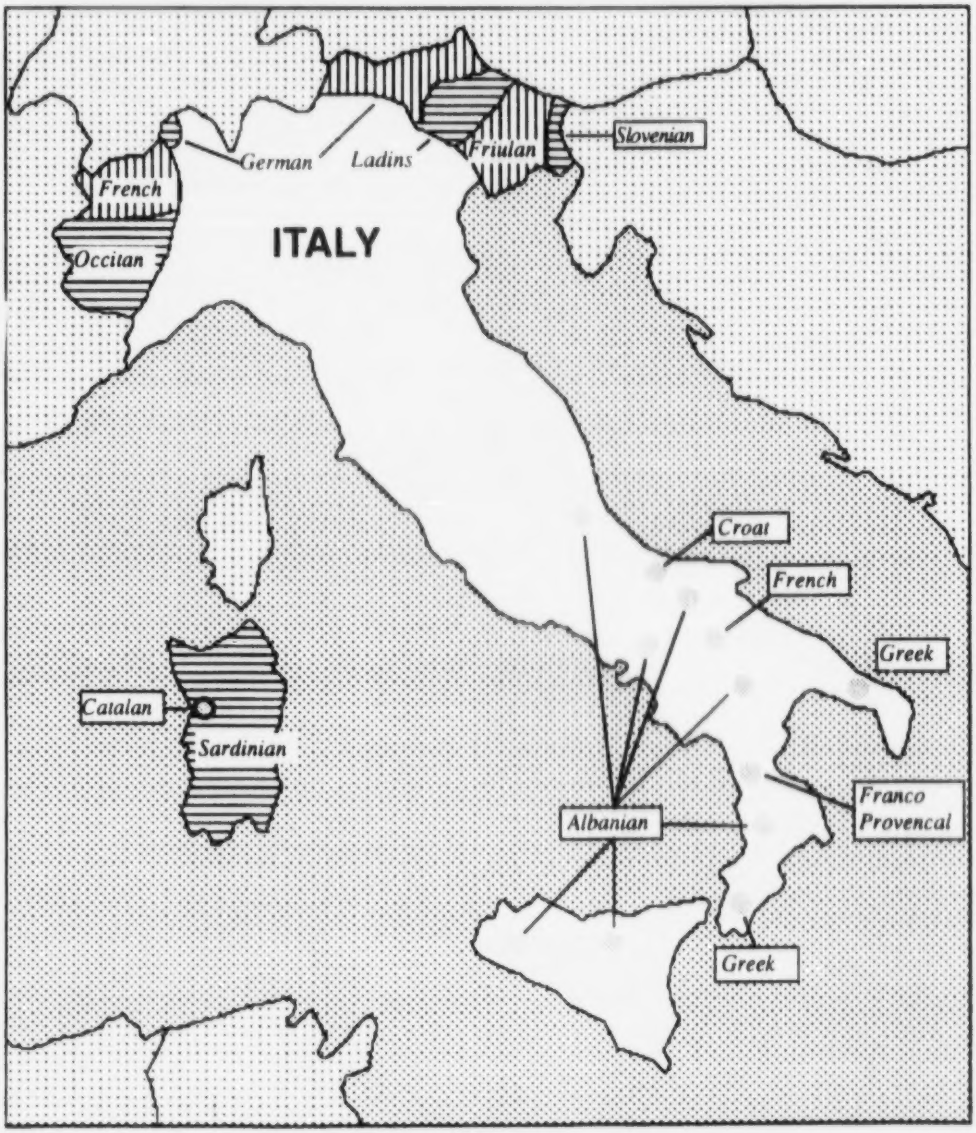
The legal position of the Ladins varies in each province. In the Province of Bolzano, Ladin is – in those areas where it is spoken – a language on a par with Italian, and recognised by the public administration. It is also a medium of instruction in schools at every level and there is provision for positive discrimination in public service appointments.

Many periodicals are published in the Ladin language and various private radio and television stations broadcast programmes in Ladin. R.A.I. also broadcasts programmes in the language through its regional network.

THE OCCITANS

Occitan is spoken in some areas of Piedmont by about 46,000 people, the majority of whom are to be found in a few mountain valleys. There is also a small community of about 3,000 people in Guardia Piedmontese in the province of Cosenza (Calabria).

The Occitan language does not have



any legal status. There is only a regional law which envisages subventions for the councils, institutions, mountain communities, public bodies, and associations which organise activities to revitalize 'the linguistic and cultural patrimony of the region'.

Occitan is not used in public administration nor is it taught officially in the schools. However, it is accepted as a primary language in the nursery schools and as an optional subject in some primary schools.

Some periodicals are published either partially or totally in Provençal. A private radio station broadcasts cultural programmes in Provençal.

THE SARDINIANS

According to 1979 estimates, out of a population of 1,600,000 Sardinians, 8-9% speak Sardinian exclusively, while 80% are bilingual. The Sardinians are therefore the strongest minority in Italy.

For some years now there has been a conflict between the Regional Government which has on various occasions, sanctioned equality for the Sardinian language and Italian, and the Central Government which, claiming for itself the exclusive mandate over this issue, has always opposed these moves. The issue is still open, but in the meantime many local authorities in Sardinia are in fact implementing equal rights for both languages. Any initiative in this field, however, remains with the National Parliament.

Many steps are being taken to teach Sardinian in school but no systematic teaching programme is being implemented at regional level.

The universities have departments dedicated to the Sardinian language and culture. Teaching Sardinian in the school system is all the more difficult since there are actually five different linguistic systems; the Logudorese, the Nuorese, the Sassarese, the Gallurese and the Campidanese.

There are few publications in Sardinian and private radio and television stations broadcast in the language. Several daily papers publish articles in Sardinian. R.A.I. occasionally broadcasts programmes in Sardinian.

THE SLOVENES

According to various estimates the Slovenes in the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Region number between 70,000 and 150,000. There are Slovenes living in the Province of Trieste, in some areas of the Gorizia Province and in some areas of the Udine Province – along the border with Yugoslavia from the Adriatic to the Austrian border.

The use of language is only legally recognised in four minor Councils of the Trieste Province. Nonetheless, in practice, three councils of the Gorizia Province, also permit its use. In these areas the Slovenian language is used in public administration, while its use in the Councils of Trieste and Gorizia is only marginally tolerated.

In the Province of Udine the Slovenes do not have any legal status.

In the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia there are state schools at every level where everything is taught through Slovenian. In the Province of Udine there is one private primary school which does so.

The Slovenes have their own daily newspaper (Primorski Dnevnik) and various periodicals. R.A.I. broadcasts a radio programme in Slovenian for 12 hours every day and a private radio station broadcasts in the language. A decision already taken regarding television programmes, has not yet been implemented. In Parliament, a working group of senators is examining various proposals for the introduction of comprehensive protective legislation, in accordance with international agreements.

THE GERMAN-SPEAKERS

The German minority is very strong in the Province of Bolzano (270,000 people); other German-speaking areas (some 9,000) are scattered around Piedmont, Trent, Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

In South Tyrol a large section of the Italian population speaks German.

The German minority in the Alto Adige (South Tyrol) enjoys the

Denmark: The German Minority

The German minority consists of a population of some 20,000 living across the German border in the south of Denmark in that part of 'Sonderjylland' known as 'North Schleswig'. Following the Middle Ages two cultures brought their influence to bear on this territory: Danish and German. In the 17th century the influence of Low German made itself felt but later on High German took root and became, for a section fo the population, the means of communication in town, church and school.

Towards the middle of the 19th century, with the re-awakening of national consciousness, the choice of spoken language became the criteria for deciding each person's national identity. The communities which formed as a consequence constituted the beginning of today's German minority whose spoken language is a Danish dialect but whose High German as their official, cultural language.

The 'Bund deutscher Nordschleswiger' comprises all cultural and social associations; it publishes a German language newspaper and; it represents the German minority in all fundamental matters relating to the community.

An organisation known as "School and Language" is in charge of the 18 German schools at which 1,300 students attend. In these schools, the medium of instruction is German which is taught as the mother tongue. All syllabuses take both the requirements of students from the 'Schleswig Holstein' area and of students from Danish-speaking into account. Up to A-level/Leaving Certificate level, certificates may be taken in either German or Danish. Thus a common basis is established for achieving the goals set out in the forward to school curriculi:

'Our school is a German school. Thanks to the use of the German language, students are immersed in the German culture. Our school is a German school in the Danish state. Likewise, it endeavours to immerse the students in the Danish cultural and linguistic world and to prepare them for life as citizens of this state."

Manfred Uth

Ireland: The Irish Language

The 1981 Census of Population returned 5,184 people of three years of age and over as 'Irish only' speakers, and 1,013,229 as speakers of 'Irish and English'. A further 268,957 claimed that they could read but not speak Irish. The 1,018,413 who could speak Irish equalled 31.56% of the population, the highest number in the category for many decades.

The census did not separate speakers of Irish as a first or second language, nor give accurate figures for Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) areas or Galltacht (English-speaking) areas.

Legal Status

Article 8 of the Constitution recognises Irish as 'the national language' and also as 'the first official language', English is 'a second official language', and either language may be used exclusively 'for any one or more official purposes'.

Legislation is in fact enacted almost totally in English with Irish translations being subsequently published. Interpretations are made on the original versions though Article 25 states that when legislation is 'enrolled' in both versions conflicts will be settled by reference to the Irish version.

There is no legislation such as exists in Canada, Switzerland, India and in some African states to enforce citizens' linguistic rights.

Public Administration

Until the setting up of Bord na Gaeilge as a statutory body to promote Irish in all aspects of society, there was never any systematic, planned programme which would ensure that Irish had a realistic 'presence' in public administration. When the state was founded it was thought that if Irish was taught in schools, patriotic enthusiasm would be sufficient to revive it as a strong community language.

All citizens are entitled to transact their business with state or other public bodies in Irish or English according to their choice but total equality of access just does not exist for the Irish speaker. Delay, difficulty, and even insult can be experienced, documentation has generally to be applied for in Irish (not in English) and, in may cases, it is simply not available.

A Bord na Gaeilge report (May 1986) notes that the concept of bilingualism does not appear to be understood by many public bodies; the Bord's 'Action Plan for Irish 1983/86' rates low in priorities. The Bord notes many positive developments as well, such as high-powered interdepartmental committees being set up and operating.

English is used almost exclusively in every sphere of government and overall public administration.

In conjunction with the 'Action Plan', a parliamentary joint committee has a structured plan to promote the use of Irish in important debates and to de-anglicise the parliament building.

Education

Irish must be taught in all state-registered primary and secondary schools. However, it is no longer an essential requirement of the Leaving Certificate that the candidate succeed in the Irish language examination (as was the case for many years). Except in Irish-medium schools, the standard in non-Gaeltacht schools is dropping. Teacher training is now done almost exclusively through the medium of English.

A criminal shortage of suitable textbooks is affecting schools in the Gaeltacht areas and is seen as a major factor in the decline of Irish-medium schools outside the Gaeltacht since the 1940 'heydays'. Third level education through the medium of Irish is almost nil. Major efforts are now underway to effect radical improvements in the situation at all levels. A recent authoritative survey found that 62% of parents want all children to be taught Irish; a mere 4% did not; 22% felt that more time should be devoted to it and 52% felt that the number of hours devoted to it at present was correct.

Media

Less than 2% of state television output is in Irish. One radio channel includes some Irish throughout its programming; a second channel, broadcasting pop-music, does not use any Irish; and a third channel broadcasts exclusively in Irish (a total of 54 hours per week).

Of the three daily papers, three publish approximately 1000 words of Irish per edition, as does one Sunday newspaper. Some local newspapers use as much as 1,500 words of Irish per edition. There is one Irish language Sunday newspaper and there are a number of periodicals and occasional magazines published in Irish.

Tomás Mac Ruairí

Italy (contd)

protection of an international agreement according to which, Austria will make a declaration of liberty when all protective measures have been fully implemented.

The German language is legally recognised and shares equal status with Italian throughout the Province of Bolzano. There are schools of every type and level where German is the medium of instruction. The proportional consistency of the various communities is the condition of access to various benefits (public employment, housing, etc.). The German language is used in public administration, however, there is still an ongoing controversy over the use of German in the judicial system at all levels.

The German minority publishes a daily paper (Dolomiten) and has R.A.I. radio and television programmes in German. There are many German-medium local radio stations and several regular publications.

The German-speaking areas in the other regions do not have any legal protection.

THE GYPSIES

The Gypsies or rather, the Rom minority, are in the main, nomadic. Their number is estimated at between 50,000 and 100,000. This minority, whose language is not recognised at any level, and which is not included in any of the Bills currently before the Parliament, has no form of protection whatsoever. There are some private institutions which aim to increase appreciation of the Rom culture and language, the best known of which are the official 'Opera Nomadi' and the 'Centro di Studi Zingari'.

Bojan Brezigar

GREECE

TURKISH-SPEAKING

Thrace is a region situated in the extreme north-east of the Hellenic peninsula. Politically it is divided in two: Western Thrace which forms part of Greece, and Eastern Thrace, which forms part of Turkey. They are separated by the river Evros which forms the frontier between the two countries.

Western Thrace, where the Muslim minority protected by the Treaty of Lausanne is found, has an area of 8,587km2 and a population of 329,582 according to the 1971 census. Administratively it is divided into three prefectures: Xanthi, Rodhopi and Evros.

According to the most recent estimates, the Evros prefecture is composed of 144,000 Christians and 11,000 Muslims among whom 2,000 are Turkish-speaking, 2,000 are Pomaks and 7,000 are Gipsies. In the prefecture of Rhodopi there are 67,000 Muslims among which 46,000 are Turkish-speaking, 12,000 are Pomaks and 9,000 are Gipsies. The Christian population is of about 51,000 inhabitants. Furthermore, the prefecture of Xanthi is composed of 42,000 Muslims, among whom 11,000 are Turkish-speaking, 25,000 are Pomaks and 6,000 Gipsies. The Christian population of Xanthi is of 46,800 inhabitants.

In accordance with the Treaty of Lausanne the Muslims of Thrace maintain their own religious institutions. In the region there are now for the Muslim population and paid by the Greek State, 163 schools with 474 teachers and 10,945 pupils. Around half of the subjects are taught in Turkish. There are also some newspapers and weekly magazines in Turkish and the local radio programmes include news broadcasting in Turkish. And also members of the Greek Parliament are Muslims who come from this area.

Although within the region there are some areas where Greeks predominate and others where the majority are Muslims, in most of them members of both communities live side by side, and thus it is common to find mosques and Orthodox temples, Greek schools and Muslim schools, within the same local area. However the two communities are clearly distinct, in their customs and tradition, in their language and religion. Mixed marriages are practically unknown. This is problably a result of the isolation within this society of the Turkish-speaking minority, who not only maintains its beliefs, but whose level of religious adherence is notably higher than that in Turkey, which is its cultural model.

Despite such differentiation, relations between the two communities do not give rise to serious problems, and at local level conflicts are rare.

There are, however, some complaints at local level, sometimes they are made to the Parliament or they come from outside Turkey. More recently, complaints also come from groups of immigrants in Western Europe. Nevertheless, it is to be noted that out of the 240,000-strong Greek minority in Istanbul in 1923, there are only about 4,000 old people left.

POMAKS

As has already been indicated, there is a population known as Pomaks, with a Slavic language and Muslims by religion, who live together with the Turkish-speaking people in Western Thrace and who, like them, are protected by the Treaty of Lausanne. In 1971 the number of Pomaks living in Western Thrace was estimated at 27,000, 20,000 of them in the prefecture of Xanthi and the rest in Rhodopi in Western Thrace, and these figures have changed very little since then. The Pomaks are a small minority in absolute terms and also relatively, since they make up only 7% of the total population of Western Thrace and 35% of the Muslim population. In addition to this, they live scattered over a hundred or so villages and hamlets in most of which they are in a majority.

The historical origin of the Pomaks is not clear. The most widely held opinion, is that they are descendants of a people who were settled in the Balkans, who acquired a Slavic language as a result of Slavic invasions, and later acquired the Muslim faith (17th century). In any case, during the Ottoman Empire the Pomaks enjoyed a certain autonomy. Despite this they participated actively in the wars of independence against the Turks, and even managed to establish an ephemeral 'Pomak republic', but their aspirations were never realized since when the frontiers of the new States were fixed, most of them were included in Bulgarian territory, and the most southerly were included into Greece.

The Pomaks have a cultural history of their own of which they have maintained at least the language, which is thus their principal sign of identity and cohesive bond. Since they are citizens of a country whose language is Greek, they have to know this language and use it in dealing with the Administration and in all formal circumstances in general. Apart from this, Greek is the language of most of the communications media (press, radio, television). And because they are members of a religious community whose main language is Turkish, they have to know this language too – not only that, but Turkish is the language through which they are taught in schools, and through which they receive what little information does not come to them in Greek. Thus the Pomaks' own language is used exclusively within the family or for colloquial interaction with friends and acquaintances.

SLAV-SPEAKING

Although the massive resettlements of population which followed the end of the Balkan War provoked the exodus of no less than a quarter of a million Slav-speaking people from what had become Greek Macedonia, there were also a certain number who preferred or managed to remain in their places of origin. The 1951 census put this figure at something around 40,000. Probably at the time of the census the real figure was much higher, but since then it must certainly have diminished, since these were inhabitants of rural and mountain areas which have seen heavy emigration to the cities, with the consequent abandonment of the language.

For those who continue to live in

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their original places the situation of their language is extremely precarious. It has no official recognition, neither in theory nor in practice. Education and religious ceremonies are both carried out exclusively in Greek, and the same is true of the communications media, so that the language remains used only within the family, and even there the children and young people today tend to prefer Greek.

AROMOUNES (VLACH)

The Valacos or Aromounes as they are also known, are the modern descendants of a population probably settled in the Balkans in very ancient times. They were romanized, and acquired the Latin languages, from which evolved a neo-Latin language different from, but related to Roumanian. For a time in the low Middle Ages the Valacos had powerful independent kingdoms, and in the years of Turkish rule they enjoyed a certain amount of autonomy. However when the new Balkan States came into being, despite having been promised respect for their identity, they emerged, in practice, with no political structures of their own. Most Vlachs in the Ottoman-held provinces had endorsed Greek political, educational and cultural causes. Between the two great wars Rumania, considering that the language was clearly related to Rumanian, exercised a policy of attraction towards the Aromounes, establishing language teaching institutions where young Aromounes could learn the Rumanian language. This policy was later abandoned in practice, but the memory of it still arouses suspicion in Greece, because during the Second World War Rumanians tried to appropriate part of Greek territory by establishing a Vlach principality, administered by Rumanian oriented Vlachs.

There are no reliable estimates of the current number of Valacos in Greece who still know and use the language alongside Greek. The 1951 census lists 40,000 Vlach speakers. The Greek Valacos are found scattered across Thesaly, Pindus and Ipiros, that is, in the mountainous regions of the Hellenic peninsula. There are also Vlachs in Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. This is not fortuitous. The reason the Valacos managed to resist Slavs and Turks for so long and retain their own identity is that they took refuge in the mountains, where they specialized in pastoralism. But though this isolation has been enough over the centuries until now to ensure the survival of the language, nowadays it no longer suffices. The educational system, the church and television use Greek exclusively. Valaco is confined to family and colloquial use and is even beginning to be looked down on by young people in favour of Greek, which is linked to modern urban life. In these conditions its disappearance seems inevitable.

There are however some positive factors. Emigration has been very heavy, but only at the lowest social level. A certain number of Valacos have managed to make their way in Greek society. Furthermore, bonds of solidarity have emerged between Valaco emigrants in the cities, and associations have appeared, some of which try to keep up the language and improve its status.

The recent year interest in the Vlachs in Greece is attested by numerous articles in the press, radio programmes, and even four doctoral dissertations in Greek universities. It is possible to imagine that the combination of these efforts with a margin of tolerance and support by the Greek government could ensure the survival of this group.

ARVANITES

The Arvanite language is a branch of the great Indo-Germanic language which has survived thanks to centuries of isolation of the populations who speak it in certain regions of the Balkans, primarily in Albania and in certain parts of Yugoslavia, but also in isolated parts of Greece and Italy. Among the Greek there are descendants of those who emigrated from Albania at the end of the Middle Ages. A similar emigration explains the presence today of Arvinite villages in the south of Italy. It is very difficult to decide how far the language spoken in these places has maintained its unity, or whether it has fragmented into many dialects which are mutually intelligible.

Like other minority languages referred to here, Arvanite enjoys no official recognition nor public presence. The Arvanite consider themselves the original inhabitants of Greece and make a great show of their patriotism.

According to the 1951 census, the number of Arvanite-speaking people was of about 23,000, while the number of those who declare themselves of Arvanite origin might be clearly larger (100,000-400,000). The ambiguity of these figures indicates the need to carry out more systematic analyses.

The Arvanite live in isolated places scattered over a very wide geographical area which includes mainly the central and southern part of Greece. Even when they form the majority in a village, their language is used only within the family and between neighbours.

While the rural agricultural society in which the Arvanites lived kept its traditional characteristics, isolation ensured the preservation of their language, but nowadays this isolation is diminishing. School and education, as well as written and audiovisual communication media, are becoming more and more influential.

In such conditions, the future of the language seems very bleak. It could certainly be improved by some measure of collective awareness, but the fact that the Arvanite live in small isolated populations widely separated from each other makes it difficult for any kind of collective feeling to appear. Nor do there seem to be associative movements among emigrants to the cities, as has happened among the Vlachs.

from: "Linguistic Minorities in the European Economic Community: Spain, Portugal, Greece" – Commission of the EC. ISBN: 92-826-0375-X (EN), 92-826-0374-1 (ES), 92-826-0376-8 (FR).

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages

hopes to be in a position to announce positions in a proposed new Brussels office in early autumn. Those wishing to receive information about these openings should **write only** requesting to have details sent to them when the job specifications have been prepared. No further information is at present available.

D. Breathnach

The 'Minority Languages' of France

France is one of the EC states with the largest number of linguistic or ethnic minorities within its territory: we only have to look to the various peoples incorporated during the periods of territorial expansion, first, by the French kingdom and, later, by the Republic. It is also, quite possibly, the state which was the earliest and most systematic in carrying out a policy of linguistic repression and enforced uniformity. One need only recall, for example, the Edict of Louis XIV who, in 1700, forbade the use of Catalan for administrative purposes in the territories which had been newly conquered in 1659 (this being in complete violation of the promises and terms of the Treaties of Peronne and the Pyrenees: the use of Catalan *'is repugnant and is, in certain fashion, contrary to Our authority and to the honour of the French Nation... We desire and it pleaseth us that henceforward and beginning on the First day of May next, all proceedings which shall be carried out in the seats and jurisdictions of the said countries of Roussillon, Conflans and Cerdagne as also the deliberations of the magistrates of towns and communities, the acts of notaries and, generally, all other public acts which take place in the said lands, shall be set and couched in the French language under the pain of nullity'*.

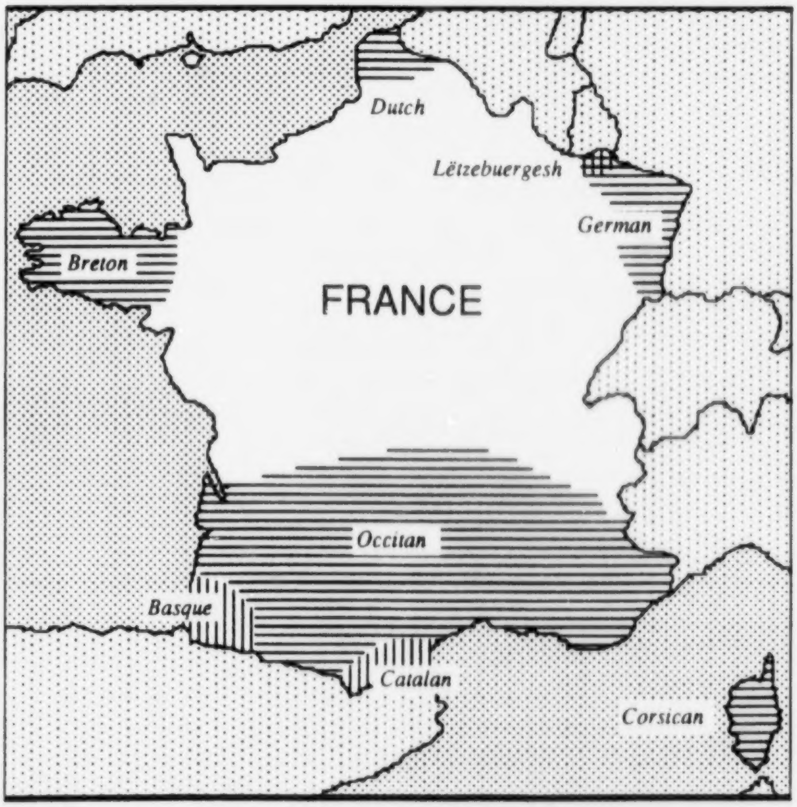
Later, the French Revolution, after a brief period of hesitation and respect for the separate languages of the different peoples of the national territory, quickly fell back into a political mystique, a blind belief, that unity was synonymous with unicity and equality synonymous with uniformity. Therefore, French was considered to be the only "fit" language capable of becoming universal. This *spiritual totalitarianism* is so strong, that the term 'French' implies, at one and the same time, both citizenship and the dominant language. This allows the enemies of linguistic pluralism to make frequent use of the expression: 'If you are French, speak French', (sic).

Today, after many centuries of a language policy which could be described as *'linguistic genocide or ethnocide'*, what has happened to the languages of France, other than French? Without counting the *langues d'oil*, variants of the great French domain, or the languages of immigrant groups, we find 7 other languages:

3 Romance languages:
  Catalan
  Corsican
  Occitan or Langue d'Oc
2 Germanic languages:
  German in its dialectic forms and in its literary form as *Hochdeutsch*
  Flemish or Dutch
1 Celtic language:
  Breton
1 language of pre-Indo-European origin:
  Basque

As we can see from the above, four languages straddle the state's border: German, Basque, Catalan and Flemish.

This proves that the recognition of our ethnic languages can be a significant way of participating in the building of Europe and a sure means of putting an end to the nationalism and chauvinism of the larger states.



Regions in which lesser used languages are spoken in France

NORTH CATALONIA

We are concerned here with the greater part of the department of the Pyrenees Orientales. The ancient countries of Conleth-Cerdagne, Capcir, Roussillon-Vallespir are the cradle of the Catalan nation. The, roughly, 200,000 Catalans in France make up the northern branch of the Catalan people, which altogether number some 10 millions (Catalonia, the Balearics, Valencia, Andorra – where Catalan is the sole official language, and the town of Alghero in Sardinia). Catalan has been a literary and administrative language since the Middle Ages and the Catalan movement in France benefits from the support of the literary output of the Catalan regions of the Spanish state: in 1985, there were 3,500 (12 million copies) in print.

CORSICA

The Corsican language, a Romance language very close to Tuscan, is used by some 200,000 people on the island and by a large proportion of Corsican emigrants to France and other places abroad. Among Corsican demands, top priority is given to the promotion of the language in education, the mass media and in public life.

OCCITANIA (OR PAYS D'OC)

Thirty Departments south of a line running from the Gironde to Maurienne, passing near Gueret, Vichy, Romans and spilling over into the western valleys of the Italian Alps, not forgetting Val d'Aran in the Generalitat de Catalunya: From 8 to 10 million people of Provence, Languedoc, Auvergne, Limousin and Gascony share (in various dialectic forms) a common language with a prestigious past which influenced all of Medieval Europe through its troubadours and whose remarkable rebirth started in the 19th century. (The Felibréen movement from the time of Mistral, the Occitan movement begun in 1945, is based at the Institute of Occitan Studies).

ALSACE AND LORRAINE THIOISE

The Alemannic dialects of Alsace and the Frankish dialects of Lorraine are the everyday language of at least 1,300,000 people (about 75% of the population). As a result of the insistence of the cultural associations and of the General and Municipal Councils, the teaching of German has been steadily expanding since 1972-73.

For the first time in a long period, the Ministry of Education, through a statement by the Rector of the Strasbourg Academy has recognised that: *Alsatian, which the majority of the inhabitants of this region, finds its written expression in an international language with an international culture: German.* But this Rector recognises that 'we shall not be able to offer teaching in German in primary schools to all the families who are asking for it'.

FLANDERS: WESTHOEK

This territory covers the Dunkirk district and the western part of the Flemish-Dutch ethnic group. Around 200,000 French citizens use dialectic Flemish, the written form of which is standard Dutch.

THE NORTH BASQUE COUNTRY OR EUSKADI

The Basque ethnic group occupies 16 cantons to the north of the state border between France and Spain. Basque, a language with a rather mysterious past, is spoken by about 100,000 people. Its literature is undergoing a vibrant renewal, particularly since the granting of autonomy to the Southern Basque Region which enjoys such benefits as television in Basque, which allows it to regain some of the territory lost over the centuries when Basque was banished from official life or even outlawed.

BRITTANY

The only Celtic language on the European continent, Breton is still spoken by about 600,000 people in Lower Brittany (the western part of the peninsula) and by the groups of emigrant Breton language supporters, not forgetting the neo-Breton supporters (students, intellectuals or families who send their children to Breton-speaking pre-primary schools).

As with all the other areas in France with their own language, the actual position of Breton is far from being satisfactory and, without a real policy to support the language, it is in danger of disappearing sooner or later.

* * *

As can be seen, France has enormous linguistic riches and diversity within its territory stretching from the Latin world to the Germanic and taking in the Basque and Celtic peoples. It *could be a miniature of Europe* but, until recently, the state has done everything that it could to destroy all these riches; in the first place, through its educational policy, and then through its policies with regard to the media.

Since the introduction of compulsory education, the Republic has not been willing to give all its citizens a knowledge of French while respecting their own languages, but has rather pursued a policy, the declared aim of which has been the death of all 'particularism', (a policy which is completely at variance with that of other countries which have all respected their French-speaking minorities). From 1887 onwards, Article of Legislation covering primary schools laid down that *'French only shall be used in schools'*. This policy was adopted by the same person who had declared two years previously: 'If France wishes to remain a great country, it should carry its language, customs, flag, arms and genius wherever it can'. (Jules Ferry, 1885).

But we are now in the 20th century and this attitude is no longer acceptable. For a long time now, the peoples concerned have been conscious of their linguistic and cultural rights. In 1977, the President of the Republic, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, recognised that 'French culture is a network of cultures which should be protected'. In 1978, the Cultural Charter of Brittany was signed, recognising Breton cultural identity. However, according to the Ministry of Education (reply to the Conseil d'Etat on 29th November 1984), this Charter *'could not be considered a legal provision with power to amend the regulations laying down the content of teaching curricula'*. This shows the difficulty involved in changing mentalities in a country formed by centralism since the time of the absolute power of Louis XIV. The defenders of ethnic languages had great hopes in 1981 after receiving promises from the President of the Republic that a Code (*Statut*) for the languages of the peoples of France would be passed by the first government. But, apart from a report commissioned by the Minister of Culture (the Giordan report, see Contact Bulletin Vol. 1, No. 1) and a circular from the Minister for Education in 1982, little has been done.

Other than official staff, the teachers who teach the so-called regional languages, are 'volunteers' and, quite often, the only training that they will have had is their own good will. It is true that a CAPES for Breton (but not for the other languages) was created recently at second level – in other words, about five posts! At this rate, the Organisation for the Defence, and

Multilingualism in Spain

In the third article of the present Spanish Constitution, the principal of multilingual recognition is spelled out in the following words:

1. Castilian is the official Spanish language of the State. All Spaniards have the duty to know and the right to use it.
2. The other languages of Spain will also be official in their respective autonomous communities in accordance with their statutes.,
3. The wealth of different linguistic forms in Spain is a cultural heritage which will be the object of special respect and attention.

Thus the Spanish Constitution gives the various autonomous communities the power to legislate regarding their respective languages wherever they are used. In this regard, the Constitution stipulates that 'autonomous communities will be able to assume powers over... the promotion of culture, research and, where appropriate, over teaching of the languages of the autonomous community'. (article 148, 17).

On the other hand, the central government must protect 'respect for the pluralism of society and the various languages of Spain' where 'access to the means of social communication dependent on the state or any other public body' is concerned.' (article 20,3).

On that basis, recognition of the various languages (which the Constitution has not specified), cannot prejudice the use or the presence of the official language of the State throughout the so-called Spanish territory. In other words, the Constitution sanctions institutionalised bilingualism in those areas in which the population possess a language of their own, other than Castilian.

CATALAN

The total linguistic distribution of Catalan is about 69,000 sq km with a population of over 10,000,000.

After 1975, came the transition to democracy and with it, the Catalan language was given official recognition in the new Spanish Constitution (1978) and more explicitly in the three Statutes of Autonomy which govern almost all of the Catalan area – Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands.

In effect, these three statutes declare that Catalan (or the Valentian variety in the case of Valencia) is the proper and official language, along with Spanish, within their respective boundaries.

The institutional linguistic policy in favour of the restoration of Catalan, known as Linguistic Normalisation, is not unanimous in the three autonomous 'communities'. The feelings and concerns of each are different. The Constitution actually prohibits their collaboration on a common linguistic policy.

In stating that Catalan is officially on a par with Spanish, the three Statutes make the maintenance of a bilingual policy.

For the moment, only the autonomous Government of Catalonia has passed a law of Linguistic Normalisation (1983). The other autonomous governments have limited themselves to the publishing of decrees which deal with the matter superficially, until such a law is passed.

In recent years, the public use of the language has increased considerably

Catalan Language	Catalonia	Valencia	Islands
No answer	0.3%		
Do not understand	9.4%	22.80%	9.90%
Understand...	90.3%	77.12%	89.47%
...and speak...	64.0%	49.47%	72.22%
...and read...	60.5%	24.36%	46.00%
...and write	31.5%	7.02%	16.55%
	for population over 2 yrs old	for population over 6 yrs old	

Source: 1986 Census

The Languages of France (cont.)

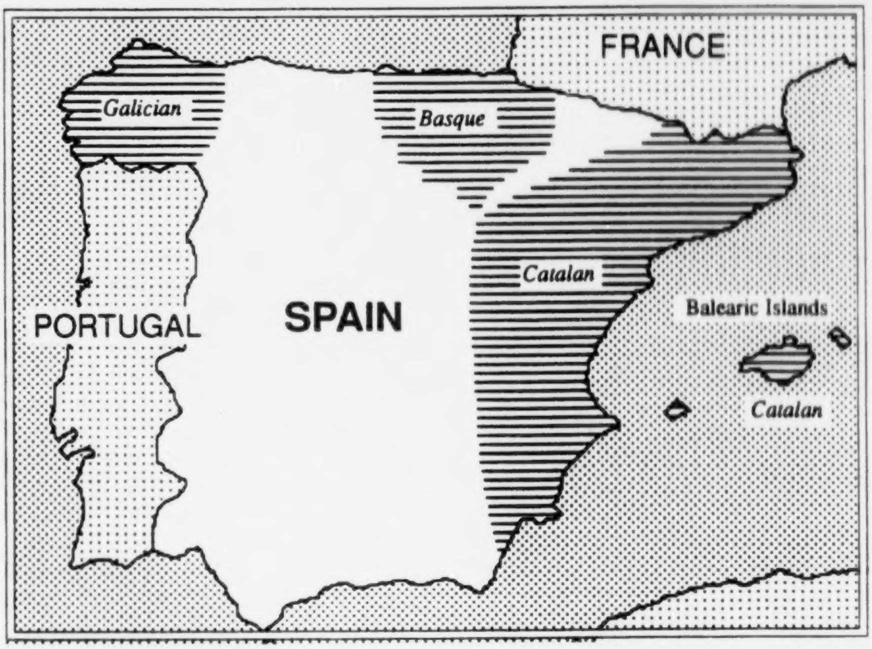
Promotion of the Languages of France has calculated that it would take 68 years for minimum needs to be satisfied. In the audio-visual world, in spite of a law intended, among other things, to promote regional languages, there has been hardly any change: just the occasional broadcast on regional channels.

The balance on the side of the State is completely negative as regards the feasibility of using the languages of France in the court system, in amenities and in transport or even as regards simple recommendations to the different administrations concerning their relations with the users of public services.

If since 1981 some measures have been taken in the field of education, the different territorial languages have still not yet been accredited the status promised to them by Mr. Francois Mitterand. The services of central administration only make concessions when pressure is put on them. Hope for the languages of France now resides in the steady increase in the socio-economic impact of these languages and cultures. Those responsible at regional level are aware of their role in the dynamism and solidarity of all the different factors involved as well as the identification of the different regions in the Europe of tomorrow.

J. Dorandeu (A.V. Chapalain)

– a greater number of books are now being published; it is the medium of several local publications and radio and television programmes and; there are now two television channels broadcasting in Catalan. Catalan is now obligatory in schools, in many schools classes are taught through Catalan, the administration has introduced bilingualism and increased public sign-posting in Catalan etc. However, Spanish has undeniably retained its hold in the mass media and in the schools.



BASQUE

Only in what is known as the 'Autonomous Community of the Basque Country', (which merely includes 3 of the 7 provinces of Euskal Herria), does Euskara have official status on a par with Castilian (Spanish). In Naforroa, the fourth Basque province in the Spanish state, Euskara is not an official language.

Of the 3 million of the country's inhabitants in theory only 500,000 are capable of using the language even if they do not wish to say that they use it. Of this 500,000, between 12-15% are taught through Euskara, their own language. Monolingual Basques do not exist given that all know French or Spanish, or both.

The Royal decree 1049 of 20th April 1979 and the Order issued on 3rd August 1979 allowed for the integration of the Basque language in the educational system of the Basque Country. At the same time, under the auspices of the joint committee of the Education Council and the Rectorate of the University of the Basque Country, steps were taken to provide suitable teacher training.

In 1982 the Basque Parliament passed a law (Law 10.1982) which recognised that every student had the right to be taught through Basque or Spanish and which prescribed the adoption of measures which would guarantee the possibility for students to master the two official languages during their years of compulsory schooling. In order to further develop these directives, the Basque Government and the Ministry of Education and Culture published respectively, the 1983 Decree on Bilingualism (138/1983) and the Order of 1st August, 1983.

GALICIAN

Galician is a Latin language which grew out of the Roman colonisation of the Iberian Peninsula. The differences between Galician and Portuguese are not great, however, while Portuguese was converted into the language of a country in which it was politically dominant and more importantly – the official language of a State, the natural evolution of Galician was interrupted towards the end of the Middle Ages. As its country and speakers were forced to submit to economic and political domination, so it too became a dominated language.

In the 1920s, Galician conquered creative prose, continued the cultivation of its poetry, affirmed its theatrical expression and received texts translated from other languages.

This experimental process of recovery and normalisation was held up by the 1936-39 war itself and by its consequences: Efforts to impose Spanish were redoubled and although the first language of the majority of Galicia was Galician – the language of public administration, teaching, advertising, mass media and Church institutions was Spanish. In the past twenty years, a radical change in favour of Galician can be noticed with moves to introduce its use into these formerly hostile domains.

Today, 80% of a population of 2,811,942 (according to official statistics) speak Galician and 94% understand it. Galician is now used by all social classes, including the middle class and professional sector which had been compelled to abandon it. More than 90% of students (survey carried out in 1986) can speak and understand Galician even if the number of those who can genuinely read and write the language is much lower.

(Sources: 'Multilingualism in the Spanish State', A. Argemí i Roca; 'Galician', M.P. Garcia Negro; 'Euskara, the Basque Language', Joseba Alvarez, *Contact Bulletin* 2.2; 'Euskaldunisation ou Basquisation du Système d'éducation', Euska Jourlaritza, Hezkuntza, Unibersitate eta Ikerketa Saila (1985). *Linguistic Minorities in the European Economic Community: Spain Portugal, Greece.. Commission of the European Community.*).

The Netherlands: Frisian

Friesland is one of the twelve provinces of the Netherlands. The province has a population of 600,000, less than 4 per cent of the total of the Netherlands. Surveys have shown that just over 50 per cent of all inhabitants has Frisian as the mother tongue and that almost 75 per cent has some command of spoken Frisian.

Frisian is formally recognised as a second language of the Province of Friesland and thus, by implication, as an official second language of the Netherlands. There are special provisions in laws to regulate its use in the courts, in lists of candidates for elections, in some legal documents and in primary education. Furthermore, the Central Government and the Provincial Government have signed an agreement on the use of Frisian in public administration. A new language act is in preparation.

Education

A long campaign to have Frisian taught in primary school bore fruit in 1980 when it was made an obligatory subject in all school curricula. In practice, the number of hours of instruction varies widely, between one mere hour of singing in Frisian per week in one class, to at maximum an equal number of hours for Frisian and Dutch medium instruction throughout all grades. Initiatives have been taken to experiment with curricula which are specifically directed towards language maintenance rather than transition. Recently, at pre-primary level, specific Frisian language playgroups have become successful. At secondary level no progress has been made for over a decade. At University level the two Frisian departments have come under threat of severe cut-backs more than once.

Public Administration

The posting of street-names and speaking Frisian in local councils during the 1950s marked the first stage of its use in public administration. A systematic language policy took shape at the initiative of the Provincial Government during the nineteen seventies and eighties. Most noteworthy among these initiatives were the 1978 and 1983 reports of the Working Party on the Use of Frisian for Official Purposes, which contained proposals on the basis of equal validity and equal rights for both Frisian and Dutch. Over the past ten years, also the Central Government and a majority of the 31 Municipalities have been paying more attention to Frisian. Yet the amount of written official communication in Frisian remains very modest.

Media and cultural production

Frisian has been used on television for school programmes for over 15 years. Since a few years there are also broadcasts on national television during the extremely modest number of 31 hours **per year**. On the regional radio there are some 2.5 hours every day of original production. Including the additional sports programmes at weekends and special educational programmes, the number of hours broadcast in Frisian comes over twenty per week.

There are two regional newspapers, which have a circulation of 110,000 and 25,000 respectively. Both include a small amount of Frisian texts, but it comes to less than 5 per cent of all text.

As to journals and magazines, there is one entirely Frisian weekly with a circulation of 6,000. There are also some 10 literary and cultural journals, which appear monthly or less, with circulation figures of 200 – 1,000. The scientific journal of the Frisian Academy (four issues per annum) has half of its articles about research on history, linguistics and social sciences in Frisian and the journal has a circulation of 3,000. In the domain of cultural production about 100 original books (novels, poetry, children's stories) are published. In recent years just one movie, one opera and two musicals were produced. There is also a highly successful professional theatre group with several plays each year and amateur theatre groups can be found in most villages.

Durk Gorter

Luxembourg: Its National Language

The everyday language of Luxembourg could not be considered to be, in the strictest sense, either a minority language or a lesser used language. In reality, nearly the entire population of the grand Duchy (360,000 inhabitants) speak Lëtzebuergesh which was declared by law on 24th February 1984 to be the national language. Lëtzebuergesh is used by all social classes in personal, social and commercial relations, in relations with the public authorities and in the work place. However, it co-exists with German and French and the citizen is normally at least trilingual.

Lëtzebuergesh in education

Pre-schooling is done through the medium of Lëtzebuergesh and its primary linguistic goal is to perfect the child's knowledge of the language. In primary schools, German is usually the first language of instruction and French the second. It is intended that the child learn to use all three languages at a parallel level during primary education. In the final stages of post-primary schooling, French takes over from German as the main medium of instruction.

The situation in public administration

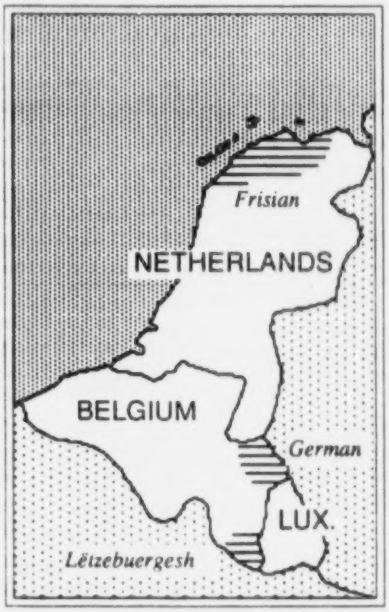
Although French plays the role of 'official language' in Luxembourg's public administration, the use of Lëtzebuergesh (and to a lesser extent, the use of German) is not excluded by its services. Official articles of legislation and administration are published in French. Often, official forms and notices are accompanied by a German version. Lëtzebuergesh only appears sporadically on official bills. All the same, the local (and national) language is still the most verbally used in institutions and in parliamentary debates. The new law of 1984 (Art. 4) recommends civil servants to use the language of the

continued over

Belgium: The German Speaking population

In 1970 a federalist-type, decentralised regime was taken on board by the then, unitary Belgian state. It was pressure from the Flemish (Dutch-speaking) majority which brought about the division of the country into linguistic regions, each having cultural autonomy.

The structure of cultural autonomy was reinforced in 1980 by a further regional division which gave a certain political autonomy to the two largest regions (Wallonia and Flanders) especially in questions of social administration and economy. The German-speaking region straddling the border between Belgium and Germany and which officially has a population of 65,000, was annexed by Belgium in 1920 (following the decision of the Treaty of Versailles). Long before that date and indeed since the creation of the state in 1830, Belgium was already host to a German-speaking population in the north-east of the province of Liège and in the Arlon region. In this latter, the idiom of the people is what is commonly known as 'Lëtzebuergesh'. The cultural autonomy which was decreed in 1970 only recognises that area annexed in 1920 as German-speaking territory. The 'old' Belgian territories where the German language is spoken were considered as francophone.



The new 1970 Constitution stipulated the creation of a Council for German Culture which, in 1973, was established. Initially, this body only had a consultative role specifically in cultural matters. Little by little, taking the two largest communities in Belgium as its example and as a source of inspiration, the German cultural community acquired decision-making powers.

In 1980, the Council's field of action was widened. In effect, apart from cultural matters, its powers were extended to include areas such as youth policy, the elderly, hospitals, the environment and tourism; areas in which it might apply its own 'personal touch'; Educational policy is still excluded – responsibility for it remains with the central authorities.

Lëtzebuergesh

Arlon (Arel in German), a pre-Roman town and over 2,000 years old, is the capital of the Luxembourg Province of Belgium and the urban centre of a region where the language spoken is a variety of German – Moselle Frankish – commonly known as 'Lëtzebuergesh'.

The same dialect is also spoken, with some small differences, in the grand Duchy of Luxembourg (where Lëtzebuergesh is the national language); in the Germanic part of the French Moselle region and; in the neighbouring regions of the West German Federal Republic – particularly around Bitburg and Prum.

It is difficult to determine how many speakers of Lëtzebuergesh there are in the Pays d'Arlon as linguistic census has not been officially carried out in Belgium since 1947. However, investigations carried out by Prof. Albert Verdoodt and the Centre for Research into Multilingualism (Brussels) establish the number of Lëtzebuergesh-speakers as somewhere between 24,000 and 39,000.

The language of the people has been completely supplanted by French in the schools and in provincial and community administration.

In Arlon itself, the language is only spoken in some of the working class areas; the town, which today has a population of some 17,000, has seen an enormous influx of Francophones, most of whom are civil servants.

(Sources: 'Belgium: the German-speaking Population and Cultural Autonomy', Contact-Bulletin 2.2, Hubert Jenniges; 'The Pays d'Arlon, a Forgotten Minority in Belgium, Contact Bulletin, 2.1, Hubert Jenniges.)

Luxembourg

citizen in public services 'wherever possible'.

As far as street names and place names are concerned, the tendency is to place the Lëtzebuergesh version beside the official French toponomy.

The situation in the media

Around 75% of the Lëtzebuergesh-speaking population listens to radio programmes in their own language. With regard to television, one 2 hour programme is televised on a Sunday afternoon in Lëtzebuergesh. In the written press, German dominates. Lëtzebuergesh is most frequently used in articles dealing with family matters.

Knowledge of German and or French would appear to be essential for communication with the cultural, political and economic world which surrounds this little state. Lëtzebuergesh on the other hand, is a true symbol of identity.

EDITOR: (Sources: 'La Situation Multilingue au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg', Henri Hostert; 'The Study Visit Programme – Luxembourg', *Contact Bulletin*, 2.1, Hubert Jenniges.).

The Lesser Used Languages of the Community

Community.”

A proposed draft text of the article from the Danish Government reads: **“The objective of cultural cooperation in the Community should be to secure and strengthen the cultural and linguistic individuality of the member states and thereby preserve and promote diversity in the culture and cultural inheritance of the Community.**

In the attainment of these objectives particular account shall be taken of the need to strengthen the less widely-spoken languages, the minority cultures and cultural life in the European periphery”.

Although there is still a lot of uncertainty about what the outcome of the debate on the EC treaty may be and on the formula of words which may in the end be agreed, there would seem to be a growing awareness that there is more to Europe’s linguistic identity than the Community’s official working languages and that there are more domains to European life than economics, coal, steel and nuclear energy.

It is estimated that up to 50 million of the EC’s 340 million citizens speak an autochtonous European language other than the major language of the state in which they live. A formal recognition of their linguistic and cultural identity can only advance European integration and unity.

This special edition of Contact-Bulletin briefly outlines the languages with which we deal and their present situation. We have attempted also with the aid of some very rough maps to give readers an idea of where the languages are spoken but for those readers interested in a more precise map, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages will shortly be publishing a full colour wall map of our languages. More details will be published in our next edition.

Editor

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SPRING 1992

Study Visit to the German-speaking part of Belgium

In 1991, one of the annual study visits conducted by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (EBLUL) took place in the German-speaking area of Belgium. From 26th May to 1st June, 10 participants with an interest in minority languages were given an opportunity to discover Belgium's German-speaking community, which not only includes the officially recognised and extensively self-governing German Language Community, but also the Arel area, a Luxemburgesch-Germanic minority in the Belgian province of Luxemburg that borders on the principality itself (see CB 8.1).

The programme put together by Hubert Jenniges, President of the Belgian Committee of EBLUL, gave a picture of the way the German-speaking community lives today, outlining its political organisation, its cultural activities and its educational system. The programme included a visit to BRF, Belgium's publicly funded German-language radio station, and to GRENZ-ECHO, the only German language daily paper. The day with the press was rounded off with a presentation of the privately-owned radio broadcasting station, RADIO AKTIVITÄT.

Besides the media, calls were also made on the political institutions of the German-speaking community, namely the Rat and the Executive (parliament and government). The educational system was an important component of the programme, giving the visitors the chance to exchange information with the Pedagogical Working Group, an official advisory body for teachers in the German-speaking community. The problem of bilingualism was discussed with the Association of Parents' Councils, then at the Archiepiscopal School in St Vith, the visitors were able to take part in a class, followed by discussion with students and school management.

In Arel, the group was welcomed by the language-preservation group, "Areler Land a Sprooch", and visited a kindergarten in which a pilot project on bilingualism (Letzeburgesch and French) at pre-school age is being conducted with the support of the European Community. This project is the first instance of a revival in the teaching of Letzeburgesch.

On Thursday 30th May, during their stay in St Vith, there was an opportunity to ask the visitors for their impressions. All of them had already formed their own image of the language situation in the German-speaking community, and impressions

continued page 2

Catalan Delegation in Dublin

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages had the recent pleasure of a visit to its offices by a delegation from the Cultural Department of the Generalitat de Catalunya who met with Bureau representatives and some people involved in the promotion of the Irish language in Ireland.

Sr Miquel Reniu i Tresserras, Director of Language Policy in the Catalan Government, and Sr Miquel Strubell from the Language Directorate met with Anna Vari Chapalain, President of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Dónall Ó Riagáin, Secretary General of EBLUL, and Helen Ó Murchú, chairperson of the Bureau's Irish Committee. Minister of State for the Gaeltacht (Irish language affairs) Pat Cóip Ó Gallchóir TD, held a dinner in honour of the visitors.

The Catalan delegation also met with Mark Killilea MEP who is at present preparing a report for the European Parliament on the lesser used languages of the European Community.

According to Dónall Ó Riagáin the Catalans were extremely happy with their visit which they believed would strengthen the practical cooperation which already exists between the European Bureau and the Catalan authorities.

From left to right: Sr Miquel Strubell, Helen Ó Murchú, Anna Vari Chapalain, Sr Miquel Reniu i Tresserras and Dónall Ó Riagáin

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Study Visit to the German-speaking part of Belgium

differed as widely as the cultural backgrounds of the ten participants, as indeed did their motivation and interest in taking part in this study tour. Each one made comparisons with the language-policy background to their own minorities.

Impressions and comments

Most of the visitors confirmed how impressed they were at the level of independence and wide-ranging authority achieved by the German-speaking community. Werner Meschkank, representing the Sorbian minority of Lower Lusitania in Germany, found it quite simply "fantastic, to see what achievements have been made here, especially when you look on it as a by-product of the language struggle", to quote this former radio journalist, who was prohibited from practising his profession in 1985 and is now engaged in setting up a Sorbian Museum for Lower Lusitania. Werner Meschkank was astonished to see how an independent parliament can control the fortunes of the German-speaking community, and feels that minorities radiate an incredible cultural energy of their own. In conclusion, he gave the opinion that "if Europe encourages its minority cultures in this way, there is some sense after all in the European Ideal".

T.J. Wierdsma of Friesland had a professional interest in finding how people lived with bilingualism in this area. He is attached to the Noordelijke Hoogschool Leeuwarden and looks after the advanced training of teachers, working on educational projects which concentrate on Frisian and bilingualism. He found that "this minority is in fact a majority, with its own authority and its own rights. In Friesland, the Frisian-speaking and understanding majority (who also speak Dutch) is in the minority". Frisian is recognised, but rarely used and figures only to a limited extent in the education system. Because of the rights it has acquired, this small German-speaking community is outward-looking. In this officially monolingual area (as T.J. Wierdsma saw it), bilingualism is not only allowed, it is even encouraged, with considerable importance being given to the French language. In the Archiepiscopal School in St Vith, 1st and 2nd secondary school classes are taught seven hours in French (the foreign language) and five hours in German (their mother tongue). The visitor from Friesland said he was amazed to see such significance attached to the second language, and to realise that both students and parents wanted it that way. The students also very boldly claimed that they were German-speaking Belgians, not Walloons (Francophone) or Flemings (Dutch-speaking). He wished that Frisian could become the everyday language of Friesland again, appearing on official forms and being used on bilingual road signs, for example. More time should be given to Frisian in education as well, he claimed.

The two Galician representatives formed their impressions from quite a different viewpoint. Isabelle Arkadi, teaching Galician language and literature, and Alberto Ansede Estraviz, teachers' association chairman, were of the opinion that the German language has its own prestige and power and needs no protection, not even in Belgium. The Galician language, they said, has no cultural or economic prestige, so it really deserves protection. This was a case of preserving a culture. Each one of the approximately two million inhabitants of Galicia understood the language, 80% of them also spoke it, though in the family and not in their official world outside the home. The teaching of the Galician language depended on the goodwill of the teacher. Galicians offered strong resistance to the dominance of Spanish in the media and in public life overall.

The most enlightening part of the tour for Irish secondary school teacher Rosemary Ní Dheaghaidh was her visit to the privately-owned radio station, Radio Aktivität. A teacher of Irish, she is involved in the founding of a new radio station in Dublin. "With limited means and not many staff, this station has done what we in Dublin are actually trying to achieve." Rosemary Ní Dheaghaidh was able to gather information and valid arguments to prove to Dublin that such a radio project was feasible.

For her fellow countryman Uinseann Mac Domhnaill, a school inspector, the best proof of the German-language community's immense self-confidence and self-assurance was its introduction and complex-free encouragement of a second language, namely French. The French language is not seen as a threat, an attitude to another language which contrasts with Ireland's, where the official language is in the minority and constantly under threat from English. The German language area is close to Germany, which also excludes the likelihood of isolation.

This was also the impression acquired by the Northern Italian, Marisa Cavalli, from the Aosta Valley, who thought that the German-speaking Belgians' independence and self-confidence was well demonstrated by their knowledge of three languages and their pride in speaking them. There were parallels between the French-speaking Aosta Valley and this German-speaking community too, in that both minorities spoke languages which were in the majority in other countries of Europe. The media situation could also be compared, said Cavalli, who works for a teachers' renewed and advanced training institute. The German media predominates in the Eastern Cantons, while in the Aosta Valley the Italian media holds sway.

As student of political science, Francesca de Decli of Southern Italy, the only representative who did not belong to a language minority, was interested to see how the German minority had organised itself both politically and institutionally. Her's was the impression that the German minority, with its parliament, government, schools and media, was organised like a small-scale state.

The Ladin representative, Veronika Zanoner, found that the political infrastructure in the German-speaking community was not enough in itself. "You have to love and prize your native language, as Ladin writers and artists do theirs."

Anyone interested in taking part in the 1992-93 Study Visit Programme can write to their respective member state committees or to the Bureau's Secretariat in Dublin for copies of the information note.

Visits will take place to Ireland, Germany, Denmark, Occitania, Scotland, Greek Calabria and Galicia.

Linguistic Minorities in Eastern Europe

by Rudolf Kern

It goes without saying that the subject of linguistic minorities in Eastern Europe can be dealt with only partially in this article. In order to give at least some idea, if only in outline, it must suffice to describe some typical phenomena from a geographically vast range of minorities.

The legal base for the use of minority languages is very varied. In **Poland**, for example, the legal status of the national minorities rests with the constitution (as amended in 1952), with the penal code, with administrative regulations and, in the case of the German minority, with the German-Polish Treaty on Good-Neighbourly Relations and Friendly Co-operation of 1991. As there is no special Minorities Act, the linguistic situation of the Lithuanians, the Ukrainians, the Lemkens, the Byelorussians etc. is extremely unsatisfactory in regard to detailed safeguards. In **Slovenia** it is only the Hungarian and Italian linguistic minorities but not the Germans that enjoy legal protection. In **Slovakia** a new Language Act came into effect in 1990 which, however, offers the minority languages fewer opportunities than did previous laws. Other states, such as **Hungary** and **Romania**, are at present preparing more comprehensive minority legislation after initially incorporating some fundamental provisions in their constitutions.

In the areas of official use the minority languages, while being used comparatively frequently as a medium of instruction on a local or regional level (excepting **Hungary** which no longer has any genuine schools for minorities), rarely make an appearance as the language of public administration, and hardly ever as the language of the judiciary. Minority languages are very much alive in the domestic spheres of the family and of the village community. An exception in all Eastern countries except in Romania are the German minorities, who for the most part have forfeited or voluntarily abandoned their mother tongue.

In general we are dealing in Eastern Europe with **national minorities** which are traditionally referred to as nationalities. Rom **(gypsies)** and **Jews** are regarded as **ethnic minorities**. The **Muslim** community in Bosnia are a nationality based on religion.

The national minorities in question seek special protection from their prospective mother nations. The protective function of these mother nations manifests itself particularly in the application of the principle of **reciprocity** in regard to the protection of minorities, which as a rule is based on bilateral agreements. You only have to think of the above-mentioned German-Polish treaty or the international treaty between Moldavia and the Ukraine, both of which entail linguistic rights on the basis of reciprocity. **Slovenia**, however, which has just gained its independence, refuses to sign an accord with Italy referring to a violation of the principle of reciprocity by Italy.

Almost all of the states in Central and Eastern Europe claim to be **nation states** even though in essence they are all **states comprising several nationalities**. Thus Romania defines itself as a unitarian nation state even though 3 to 5 million Rom (gypsies), more than 2 million Hungarians and more than twenty other nationalities live there. The constitution of **Czechoslovakia**, in accordance with the principle of the nation state, also defines the State as the "common state of Czechs and Slovaks" notwishtanding the fact that there are after all 1,360,155 Moravians, 587,884 Hungarians, 114,116 Rom, 61,542 Poles, 53,418 Germans and 20,654 Ukrainians (according to the census of 2 March 1991) living there.

For that reason many people belonging to minorities feel themselves being reduced to second class citizens. Only in **Hungary** does the constitution recognise the non-Magyar (Hungarian) minorities as state-building factors and constituent parts of the nation. It is obvious that all these groups look back to an identity of their own rooted in history, and endeavour to regain their long-lost mother tongues.

Finally, it is evident that the Romany gypsies who have been ignored for so long have become the largest minority in Romania (3 to 5 millions) and in Hungary (400,000 to 600,000), and are very active. After electing a king (Ioan Ciaba) as their head in Romania, they now wish to reorganise their ethnic group as a Romany monarchy and extend it across frontiers.

Even after the collapse of the socialist systems numerous minorities in Central and Eastern Europe lack adequate protection and a level of recognition which accepts them as equal citizens within their own homelands – hopefully that much will have become clear. They are at present undergoing a transitional period which is characterised by a sense of relief in regard to the past and by a sense of uncertainty in regard to the future. They place great store by the west and by Europe which they expect to support them in their elementary rights.

15th Douarnenez Film Festival in Brittany

The 15th Douarnenez Film Festival will be held from 23-30 August 1992 and will this year be devoted to Ireland. Since 1978 the Festival has invited and paid tribute to a number of nations from different parts of the world. Some have been able to show a complete range of films, others their beginnings in the use of audiovisual expression to which they have only recently gained access, and finally repressed minorities with little freedom of audiovisual expression.

It is therefore a logical choice for the Douarnenez Film Festival to feature the Irish people. For several years recent Scottish, Welsh and Irish films have been presented in the Panorama section of the Festival.

This year it will apparently be a difficult task to choose between the many archive films, those shot in Ireland, as well as TV and workshop productions. It is also hoped to include films by emigrants from Ireland.

The Festival is first and foremost a film festival (80 films and videos shown in 1991), but the programme also includes conferences, debates, exhibitions and music on the featured people.

From the outset, the Douarnenez Film Festival has also been the annual showcase for current film and video productions from Brittany, with the added attraction this year of two long-awaited full-length feature films. So – the rendez-vous is in August in Douarnenez!

Further information from: Erwan Moalic or Dena Chapalain, Festival de Cinéma de Douarnenez, B.P. 6, 29 rue du Rosmeur, 29172 Douarnenez Cedex, France. Tel. 98.92.09.21/98.92.97.23. Fax. 98.92.28.10.

Children's Publishing Secretariat

Following on from a conference held in Stornoway in 1987 (see CB 4.3) a children's publishing secretariat was set up in Scotland under the direction of Dr Finlay MacLeod (CB 7.1). In 1990 Dr MacLeod left the Secretariat to work on the production of television programmes in Gaidhlig.

Since then the Secretariat has been based in Languedoc-Roussillon (France) following an agreement between the regional authorities there and the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages signed on 11 September 1991. The Secretariat is located in the offices of the Regional Authority which supplies it with office facilities etc.

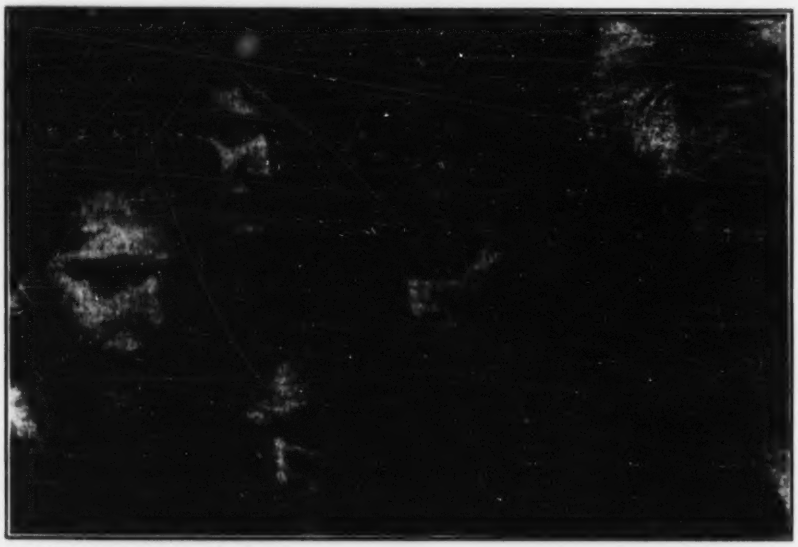
Pascale Romeu

Pascale Romeu has been working part-time for the Secretariat since the middle of October last and is responsible for renewing links with publishers of children's books in lesser used languages with a view to co-publishing.

The Secretariat's new location should allow it develop quick contacts in Italy, Spain, and France. A systematic survey of both lesser used and wider used language publishers is at present being carried out. A regular information bulletin will be published and your views and ideas will be very much appreciated.

For further information contact: Pascale Romeu, Children's Publishing Secretariat, Région Languedoc-Roussillon, 201 Avenue de la Pompignane, F-34064 Montpellier Cedex. Tel. + 33 67 22 80 76; Fax. + 33 67 22 81 92.

Rocking through lesser used languages



Frisian rock band – Reboelje

Rock music can be of great importance for lesser used languages. It is a sign of vitality and an effective way to reach and interest lots of young people. This certainly succeeded in March at the Uteinrock Festival in Snits, the first minority languages rock festival ever held in Friesland (NL).

The event was sold out in 45 minutes. Seven bands from four regions played at Uteinrock: the Breton new-wave band EV, the Scottish punk-folk band The Collaborators, from Wales Ahnrefn, Ffa Caffi Pawb and the astonishing young Beganifs and the Frisian rock bands Reboelje and Wiegels Wjukkelmasine.

S4C (Wales) and Omrop Fryslan recorded the festival, which will be broadcasted both in Friesland (the Netherlands) and Wales. VPRO-radio from Holland also put a selection of the Celtic and Frisian rock music on the air. The first Utein Rock Festival proved to be so successful that a second festival in the winter of 1993 is already certain. Rockbands of good quality that sing in a lesser used language can send material to Uteinrock, Postbus 1247, NL-8900 CE LJOUWERT, Fryslân, Netherlands.

Onno P. Falkena

FRISIAN SUMMER SCHOOL

For the first time in history a Frisian language course for foreigners with English as medium of instruction will be organized.

The main object of this course is to read and understand Frisian. Students who are able to read and understand Frisian and prefer to learn to speak Frisian, can also participate.

The course will be organized by AFUK and the Fryske Folkshegeskoalle Schylgeralân (an adult education centre) on the beautiful isle of Skylge (Terschelling) along the Frisian North Sea coast from 17-21 August, 1992. The costs for the participants amounts to f600,– (inclusive of crossing and full board).

Those who are interested should contact: AFUK, Postbus 53, 8900 AB Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, The Netherlands (tel.: (0)58-138045).

Those who are not able to participate in this course, but nevertheless wish to learn Frisian, can order the disc course 'Bûter, brea en griene tsiis'. This course consists of a study book with both Dutch and Frisian as medium of instruction and four long play records. The price is f95,– (exclusive of mailing costs) and can be ordered at the above address too.

Jelle Krol

New Publications

"European Community Activity in Favour of Lesser Used Languages 1983 to 1989" - Lucien Jacoby. This 20 page report available in English, French, German and Italian is an account of the work carried out on a practical level since the EC Commission's involvement in preserving and promoting lesser used languages and cultures. Copies are available from the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages: address on back page. (ISBN 1 870675 04 5).

"Les Ethnies" - Roland Breton, 'Que sais-je?' series, published by Presses Univeritaires de France, 108 Blvd St Germain, F-75006 Paris. (ISBN 2 13 044352 4). Having defined what he means by 'Ethnic' the author throughout this 127 page book classifies various ethnic groups by language and culture and describes in detail different ethnic groups of Europe, Asia and the Arab world, Black Africa, the Indian and Pacific oceans, and the Americas. The final chapter describes what the future may hold for ethnic groups and how their rights can be maintained.

"Minderheiten in Europa (Minorities in Europe) - Landtagsforum am 7 Juni 1991" published by Die Präsidentin des Schleswig-Holsteinischen Landtages, Düsternbrooker Weg 70, D-2300 Kiel. This is a collection of papers given at the above conference with accounts of Germanophone minorities in both East and Western Europe as well as reports on the Danish and Frisian minorities in Germany.

"Ech Léré Titsch" (ISBN 88 7032 373 0 - 361) and **"Ich Leerne Töitschu"** (ISBN 88 7032 374 9 - 371): two splendid colour illustrated books as an aid to young children learning the above Walser dialects of North Eastern Italy. Published by IRSSAE, 8 rue l'Archet, I-11100 Aoste.

"Ne Facilias Esti... Sloveno en Italio" (It is not easy to be a Slovene in Italy) published in Esperanto by Internacia Komitato por Etnaj Liberecoj, Römerfeld 44, D-5180 Eschweiler, Germany. Some parts of this book have been written in Slovene and Italian also.

"Marvailhou Ar Sav-Heol" (Tales of the Rising Sun) - 14 tales translated into Breton from Japanese by Makoto Noguchi. Further information from: An HERE, Kergluez, F-29480 Ar Releg Kerhuon, Britanny. Tel: + 33 98 28 10 37. Fax: + 33 98 28 34 74.

"Geriadur Brezhoneg (Breton-Breton Dictionary)" - a colour illustrated dictionary of Breton. Finally after many decades Breton speakers need no longer go through the medium of a dominant language to find explanations of words in their own language. It contains over 1,000 pages of over 10,000 entries accompanied by diagrams and guides to pronunciation. It will be published towards the end of 1993. Further information from: An HERE, Kergluez, F-29480 Ar Releg Kerhuon, Britanny. Tel: + 33 98 28 10 37. Fax: + 33 98 28 34 74.

"Languages of the World" - An international journal on language typology, genetic relationships of languages, geographical linguistics and related topics. Available from Languages of the World, Lincom Europa, Sportplatzstr. 6, D-8044 Unterschleissheim/Munich, Germany.

"Reversing Language Shift" - Joshua Fishman. 431 pages. An in-depth study of language shift and reversing language shift including 12 case studies. Published by Multilingual Matters Ltd, Bank House, 8a Hill Road, Clevedon, Avon BS21 7HH, England. ISBN 1-85359-121-1.

"European Lesser Used Languages in Primary Education" - Jantsje Sikma and Durk Gorter. This very informative work is the result of a major project involving the study of lesser used languages in primary education in the EC. The project started in 1986 and included a colloquy in April 1988 in Riis, Friesland, the proceedings of which also appear in this book. It is published by Fryske Akademy/MERCATOR-Education, Doelestrjitte 8, NL-8911 DX Ljouwert, Netherlands. ISBN: 90-6171-731-0.

"Minority and Autonomy in Western Europe" - A Minority Rights Group Report. A 32 page report with chapters on South Tyrol, the Swedish-speaking community in Finland, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and a brief report on the CSCE Expert Meeting on Minorities held in Geneva in July 1991.

"Gaelic: A Past and Future Prospect" - Kenneth McKinnon. Published by the Saltire Society, 9 Fountain Close, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1TF. ISBN 0-85411-047-X.

"Dizionario Fraseologico degli Albanese d'Italia e di Grecia" (Phraseological Dictionary of Albanese and Greek in Italy) - Antonio Bellusci. A collection of 3,171 Arbëreshe proverbs all with Italian translations and many also translated into English and French. 260 pages. Available from: Corso Plebiscito 22, CP 335, I-87100 Cosenza, Italy.

FUTURE EVENTS

REGIOTHEATRE 1992 - International get together for young people involved in theatre; 27-31 May 1992, Seraing, Liège, Belgium. Further information from: Paul Lefin, Résidence Montaigne, rue des Urbanistes 1/072, B-4000 Liège.

13th International Festival of Film and Television in the Celtic Countries - please note that the Festival has been re-arranged to the following dates: Sunday 28 June to Thursday 2 July 1992.

International Congress on Languages and Legislation. October 1992, Galicia. Further information from: Axéncia Europea para as Línguas Menos Estendidas, Laverde Ruiz 6, 3°F, E-15702 Santiago de Compostela, Galicia.

(see also pages 4 & 8)

Teaching through Basque

According to the Spanish State Constitution of 1978 and the Language Act of 1979 of the Basque Autonomous Community there are two official languages in this region: Basque (Euskara) and Spanish.

If all Basque citizens are to speak Basque in the foreseen future, it is a well known fact that efforts made in the field of education do not suffice in achieving this aim. Many important factors such as the status and prestige of the language, economics, employment etc. have major roles to play. However, in spite of the work that needs to be done in these areas one must not underestimate the major role schools can play in the normalisation of the language.

Since the 1960s, with the creation of the first Ikastola (Basque-speaking schools), a great deal of work has been done and the time has now come to assess the results and failures of this bilingual education. Three booklets have been published with this in mind by the Autonomous Basque Government's department of Education.

The third booklet in the series "Faktoren Eragina – EIFE No. 3" (Teaching in Basque – factors of Influence), published in 1990, aims to measure the level of competence in both Basque and Spanish is schoolchildren between the ages of 8 and 10 throughout three types of Ikastola:

Type A: Spanish medium schools with Basque as a subject;

Type B: half of the subjects in Spanish, half in Basque;

Type D: Basque medium schools with Spanish as a subject.

Tests showed that children from Basque speaking families attending a type D school achieved a high level in Spanish. However, tests carried out on competence in Basque show an acceptable level being achieved in this language by children attending types B and in particular D, whereas type A failed completely. When one breaks down each school type it can be clearly seen that type B results are far better for children from Basque speaking families.

In type D schools results are high for children of both Basque and Spanish speaking families although the former naturally scores higher. Children from Spanish speaking families who attend a D school become competent very quickly in Basque.

These studies clearly illustrated a point already proven by distinguished linguists (E.E. Lambert 1974, J. Cummins 1981) i.e. that a bilingual education does not endanger a child's first language where it is strong in the community, and secondly command of the second language continues to improve as contact with it grows.

Type D would indicate the most balanced situation as the results for both languages are high with the balance tipping slightly more in favour of Basque. In the light of such conclusions the language policy of schools in the Basque Autonomous Community is changing and type A schools are moving more towards type B and type B towards type D. The reverse has never occurred.

Copies of the above reports in several languages are available from Euskara Zerbitzua/Hezkuntza, Unibertsitate Saila/ Wellington Dukearen 2, E-01011 Gasteiz, Basque Country.

Begotxu Olaizola

School and Linguistic Minorities

The problem of regional and minority languages and cultures underlines in a radical way the many tensions and conflicts which lacerate our planet today, demanding nationalistic and autonomous claims. On the theme of school and minority languages in Italy today, a conference took place in Asiago, Roana, Lusema and was attended by representatives of all the Italian minority languages, and university experts from Italy and Europe. The conference was organised by the Istituto di Cultura Cimbra, the Istituto Mocheno Cimbro and by Confemili, the Italian Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, with the support of the European Community and various other local bodies.

The meeting opened with greetings from the Comunità Montana of the Province of Vicenza and the Veneto Region, and started with a report by Fabrizio Ravaglioli, professor of pedagogy at the university of Rome on: "The multicultural problem and multilingualism in the compulsory school curriculum in Italy". He analysed thoroughly the new secondary school curricula of 1979, the new primary school curricula of 1985 and the directions of the nursery school of 1990, stressing the limits and shortcomings of the school reforms as well as their openness and new incentives. In the secondary school curricula, for example, the word "multicultural" does not occur but there is an awareness when studying foreign languages, or geography and history of cultural difference. In the context of decolonisation attention has been focused not only on the dominant cultures, but also on the local languages and traditions.

In a world of crumbling ideals and ideologies, the tendency today is to search for a reference point for the traditions and local cultures which can be useful in reducing fear and anguish.

The conference continued with the report of Prof. Maria Antonietta Pinto and Prof. Giovanni Freddi. "Minority and national languages – metalinguistic and cognitive aspects of the problem" as its theme. Professor Pinto of the University of Rome highlighted the learning process of various languages based on tests carried out in Canada and Europe.

The local language studied at school not only does not impede the learning of the national language, but increases the ability of its own learning, widens the ability of conceptualisation and creative thinking, and reinforces the sensitivity to needs for communication. Furthermore, some experiences among the Rom, (gypsies, marginalised and discriminated against), proved that a minority group develops a better ability in linguistic communication in the Italian language, at a higher level than that of boys of the same age group from a low social class.

Prof. Giovanni Freddi from the University of Venice, presented a report on the theme "Mother language, Italian language and foreign language: a didactic problem".

"The socio-linguistic foundation of our country is made up of a mosaic of very interesting situations", the speaker pointed out, suggesting the possibility of different types of school geared towards multilinguism and treasuring the regional or minority language within an international

Menter a Busnes – Enterprise and Business

The background to an interesting Welsh language initiative by Hwel Evans, Director of Menter a Busnes

Over the years it became apparent that business and related economic issues had a traditionally low status within Welsh language culture. The subject is perceived as unfamiliar and even 'anti Welsh' by some people.

This low status is expressed in a number of specific ways as well as through generally negative attitudes. Business people in literature and the media are almost always portrayed as crooks! A disproportionately low percentage of Welsh speakers were involved in economic development activities. Even the Welsh word for enterprise, 'menter', had in the past a less positive ring than its English equivalent.

A major campaign was therefore required to develop enterprise and business as an integral, natural and compatible dimension of Welsh language culture. The eventual outcomes sought will be more Welsh speakers working in companies, investing in local firms, and starting their own business.

This was the approach developed by the Advisory Panel that has met occasionally since 1987 to decide on the most effective form of action. It was agreed to set up Menter a Busnes (Enterprise and Business) as a focus for new activities throughout the whole of Wales to promote awareness, confidence and action. The work started in January 1989. The unit is financed in the main by the Development Board for Rural Wales and the Welsh Development Agency. But sponsorship and income-generation is required to ensure that a number of projects see the light of day.

Activities: Two main types of activities are generated (many in partnership with other organisations and companies).

1. Awareness raising through three main themes –

THE MEDIA
- through a series of Welsh television adverts
- creating role models of Welsh speakers in business through a monthly television feature (on a popular magazine programme)
- creating a media focus on one aspect of business via an annual Enterprise Day
- developing a creative radio comedy series set in an imaginary business
- features and articles in magazines and newspapers

THE COMMUNITY
- providing a lively activity for social groups involving discussion and decision-taking on economic issues through a new game 'Chwylbro'
- assisting groups in developing confidence and awareness of business concepts through a local idea – generation competition
- creating materials and training to help groups turn ideas into economic action

EDUCATION
- assisting in the production of Welsh teaching material on enterprise for primary schools
- creating a means to encourage secondary schools to increase Welsh-medium enterprise provision
- working with colleges on developing new Welsh medium courses on business and management

2. Development Projects
- producing a standard work on starting a business
- collecting a database of Welsh speakers in business
- publishing a Welsh business newsletter
- assisting with the process of trying to create local business investment funds
- research on changing attitudes, and on Census figures and Welsh speakers' status and sectors of work
- creating a mechanism of commercial development
- carrying out work for other organisations, largely in research and development areas to do with economic development and the language

USNES
G!
Y
CYMRAE

Launching 'O Fenter i Fusnes' (From Venture to Business) the Welsh business bible are (from left to right) Hwyel Evans (Menter a Busnes), Huw Jones (Chairman of Barcud and Tir Glas), Emrys Evans (Menter a Busnes) and Huw V. Thomas (Chief Executive, Gwynedd County Council).

School and Linguistic Minorities

framework.

Mr Freddi proposed solutions for the primary and secondary schools, with the fundamental assumption that "only a transfer of responsibility from the State to the Regions can ensure a school structure in tune with the variety and peculiarity of the different situations. Faced with different socio-linguistic realities the Regions should be able to choose from the differentiating local models".

The conference closed with the passing of a final motion which, among other things;
- denounced the failure to approve the Law on linguistic minorities,
- viewed as completely inadequate the school legislation which fails to foresee an openness in the schools towards minority and regional languages, and
- asked that the natural bilingualism of students be efficiently used alongside the systematic and structured teaching of and in the local languages of Italy.

Sergio Bonato

SCRIPTA MANENT –

European Conference – Autumn 1993

A wise old Roman saying "Verba Volant Scripta Manent" (the spoken word goes, the written word stays) remains very much true today and can be applied to the lesser used languages of the European Community. The words we utter go with the wind, those we write remain. The written word is always read even after centuries have passed by. Reading and writing are of great importance to our lesser used languages especially after 1992.

In view of the continual development after 1993 of minority languages throughout EC member states it is of extreme importance that we write and publish in these languages. It is thanks to writers and publishers that these languages, the maternal languages of many Europeans, continue to be used today. In the same vein writers and publishers need readers. Thus there is an interdependent link.

European unification and its possible consequences offer the "It Fryske Boek" Foundation the opportunity to organise an international conference on EC minority languages, their writers, their publishers and their readers.

The aims of the conference are to:

- evaluate possible means of continuing encouraging writing, publishing and distribution of books (scientific publications, prose, poetry, children's books) in minority languages after 1992;
- study possibilities of promoting reading of the maternal language;
- facilitate an exchange of ideas and views amongst writers, publishers and organisations involved in the promotion of literature in lesser used languages.

The following themes will be discussed:

- The impact of European unification on the production and sales of books;
- the importance of children's books from a pedagogical point of view;
- ways of encouraging reading;
- strategies for promoting books;
- challenges and financial problems facing writers, publishers, and booksellers after 1992.

Conference organisers are depending on your participation and strongly believe that this exchange of views and knowledge will determine a totally new approach. Details on practical arrangements for the conference can be obtained from the Management Training Centre, Rengersleane 8, NL-8917 DD Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Netherlands; Tel: +31 58 13 21 42; Fax: + 31 58 12 32 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,
With reference to the last issue of Contact Bulletin, I would like to express the grave concern of the Academia de la Lingua Asturiana, official organ of the Asturian Autonomous Community for the defence of this language. Its cover shows a map of linguistic minorities which belong to the EC without including the Asturias country, an area where Asturian is spoken.

We consider that to hide the Asturian linguistic reality, the way the magazine you run hides it, is an offense and harmful action towards Asturian speakers. This matter becomes even more serious when observing a repeatedly negative attitude in this publication.

You must also consider that your aggressive attitude against Asturian normalisation, is in agreement with that of one of the most intolerant sectors of residual fascism. Asturias has, during all this century, fought very strongly against this fascism. Now we can see it, from a linguistic point of view, supported by the informative policy of the Bureau.

We therefore must insist that you take proper action to change the attitude on the part of Contact Bulletin against Asturian, as soon as possible.
The Secretary, Academia de la Llingua Asturiana, Uviéu

Sir,
I have here in front of me Vol. 8, Nos. 2 & 3 of Contact Bulletin. On page 19, in the article "Belgium: The German Speaking Population" there are two large inaccuracies.

German cannot be considered to be spoken in the region of Arlon, even if it is true that a small part of the local population use Luxembourgish. The distinction is sizeable.

Education Policy is indeed none the more national and depends on the three various communities: Francophone, Flemish and Germanophone. There is no Committee for Education in the National Parliament nor is there a National Ministry responsible for Education.
Raymond Biren
Chemin du Lingenthal, 1
B-6700 Waltzing Arlon.

Sir,
The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages has just dedicated a double edition, Volume 8, nos. 2 & 3 (Autumn 1991) of its newsletter "Contact-Bulletin" to an inventory and description of what it describes as the "lesser used languages of the European Community".

The criteria of recognition of the languages in question are very curious. The exclusion of a number of languages and partisan selections in describing them are very worrying.

Indeed, one notes, the absence of the following languages:

- all of the Langues d'Oïl (Northern Latin languages) of France and Belgium (even though the Francophone Community of the latter state has just passed a law giving it status and an infrastructure through which it can be promoted);
- the so-called 'Francoprovencal' languages in France;
- all of the Italic languages, from Piemontese to Sicilian, with the exception of Corsican;
- Asturian, Leonese and Aragonese in Spain.

In addition to this a certain number of languages are placed under different groupings:

- Languages belonging to German like Alsatian or Bavarian are included

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

under "German";
- The 'Langues d'Oc' (Southern Latin languages) come under "Occitan";
- the Langues d'Oïl under "the great Francophone domain" (!!!).

Finally, social and regional variations such as Cockney, Luxembourgish and regional variations of more widespread languages (including Catalan) are totally ignored.

Obviously, it is a question, on the one hand, of recognising languages which are judged (by what necessary subjective criteria) to be sufficiently different from the dominant languages in each nation state, and on the other hand centralising them under all-embracing labels as supplied by certain ideological movements (e.g. Occitanism, Pangermanism, Catalanism etc.). Yet, it is difficult to see Corsican being separate from Italian more so than Piemontese which is even more separate. Nevertheless so-called "Francoprovencal" idioms are recognised by all as being clearly separate from the group of Oïl languages (Cf. the section on "Italy"). However everyone knows that the Provencals refuse to be absorbed by Occitanist views. And that's not all...

And what becomes of a speaker's sense of identity in all of this? The least that can be said is that the European Bureau's criteria are not truly democratic. If one compares the languages mentioned here to those represented by the International Association for the Protection of Threatened Languages and Cultures, one can see clear inhibitions on the part of the Bureau. Why?

In conclusion, I object strongly as a defender of minority languages and cultures, as a Provencal and as a linguist, to the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages' selections and omissions which are as arbitrary as they are intolerable. I fear that generally and democratically it is a question of bowing to dominant centralist criteria while at the same time complying to the views of the nation states mentioned.

Europe could never be built under such deceptions.

Philippe Blanchet
Université Rennes 2,
Haute Bretagne.

Sir,

I recently read Contact Bulletin for the first time, and was interested greatly by the edition of Autumn 1991 which describes in great detail the various lesser-used language communities throughout the EC.

I am writing to point out a rather significant omission from the particular item concerning Scots. Setting aside the fact that the item refers incorrectly to Scots as "Lallans" – Lallans is the name for the dialects spoken in central and southern Scotland, whereas Scots is also spoken in other regions – the article omitted to mention the fact that Scots was once the state language of the kingdom. Between the 1470s and the Union of the Crowns in 1603, Scots was the language of Scotland's institutions, and was used in speech and writing for the official business of state.

In this respect Scots is rather unusual, and setting aside those communities which speak the majority language of a neighbouring country but happen to be on the "wrong" side of a political frontier, there are few if any lesser-used languages which have been used for government. For this reason, I think it deserved a mention in the article.

Wi guidwill,
Lindsay Colin Wilson
Press Officer
Scots Language Society
30 Barrington Drive
Glasgow G4 9DT

Sir,

We read with great interest Volume 8, Nos. 2 & 3 of Contact Bulletin.

We notice in the paragraph on France the omission of Francoprovençal which all linguists agree to recognise. Even if this term is unsatisfactory it corresponds to a linguistic reality which concerns the following states: France, Italy and Switzerland. The Giordan Report, which is an authority on the official recognition of linguistic minorities in France, has not forgotten to mention us.

In the paragraph on Italy, however, the "Francoprovençals" are mentioned. One should note here that if some of them (people in the Aosta Valley) use French, like us who are Savoyards, in Administration, the Francoprovençals of Piémont have for a long time turned towards Italy to fulfill this function and would, under no circumstances, wish to be regarded as Francophones.

Pierrette Servoz.
Mouvement Région Savoie
4 chemin du Cocolet
F-74100 Annmemasse

Dear Sir,

I regret to say that the section headed Scotland – Lallans in the article on Indigenous Non-English Language Communities in the United Kingdom in Contact Vol. 8, 2 & 3, is misleading in a number of respects. Whatever the source of this information, it is clear that is was not supplied by The Scots Language Society..

It is not a question (as is stated) of Lallans sometimes being called Scots, but of the term, Lallans, being used sometimes to describe vernacular Scots and sometimes in a denigratory way to refer to an artificial synthetic language which Hugh MacDiarmid is imagined to have invented. Scots is the appropriate generic term covering every form of the language: the State language of Scotland until the Union of the Crowns in 1603, the literary Scots used by writers since the beginning of the 18th century and all the surviving vernacular dialects of the language.

Yours sincerely,
Dr David Purves
8 Strathalmond Road
Edinburgh EH4 8AD.

Sir,

Volume 8 Numbers 2 & 3, Autumn 1991, of your newsletter in the article on Spain leaves the reader ignorant of two living spoken languages undergoing a full renaissance: Asturian (Bable) and Aragonese, to which no particular reference is made and which are absent from the map of the Iberian peninsula published by you.

On 30 June 1986 an article totally similar to this appeared in CB Vol. 2, No. 3 with practically the same map and even at this time we expressed our strongest disapproval.

continued over

LETTERS

Curiously enough, however, we notice that in an important piece which appeared in Vol. 4, No. 3 (Winter 1987), dealing with European Parliament support for lesser used languages, it is mentioned that when this was being discussed at Parliament level, and during the vote of a resolution aimed at obtaining financial support amongst other things for the Bureau, Mlle. Garcia Arias, MEP from Asturias, participated very positively in this debate.

You will appreciate, therefore, that your attitude is discriminatory and conforms neither to the spirit nor to the aims of the Bureau and undermines the cultural interests and dignity of the minorities concerned.

Jordi Costa i Roca & Paul Lefin
A.I.D.L.C.M.
Perpignan / Liège.

Sir,

As in many cases the word "Ostfriesisch" is ambiguous. The average man on the street in East Frisia will in fact mean Low German when he says "Ostfriesisch". This is because in the political area of East Frisia there is no longer any Frisian. Over in our part of the world the average man on the street does not quite know just what is what, and so for him the term "Ostfriesisch" could be Frisian or Low German. In the literature "Ostfriesisch" does mean sometimes East Frisian as opposed to North and West Frisian, especially when discussing historical aspects. Sometimes you see qualifying clauses such as "Ostfriesisch, das heißt Saterländisch" or "Ostfriesisches Platt". Sometimes it is difficult to know just what is meant. (This also applies to the two terms "Deutsch" and "Dänisch" in our part of the world as "Deutsch" can sometimes mean High and/or Low German, and "Dänisch" standard Danish and/or the Jutish dialect). Thus what you wrote on the map wasn't wrong, but I have to admit that to avoid ambiguity it might be better to write "Saterfriesisch" or "Saterländisch".

Best wishes
Alastair Walker
Elbinger Str. 10
D-W-2353 Nortorf.

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages seeks to preserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Communities, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland. It works in close cooperation with the Commission of the European Communities and the European Parliament, Member State institutions, the Council of Europe and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the Commission of the EC, the Irish Government, the Government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the German-ophone Community of Belgium.

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CONTACT BULLETIN

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Volume 9, Number 2
AUTUMN 1992

European Convention for Regional or Minority Languages

During their June 1992 meeting the Minister's Deputies (i.e. Ambassadors) of the Council of Europe voted by a large majority to accord the legal form of a convention to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The following states voted in favour: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Malta, Liechtenstein, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, San Marino, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. France, UK, Cyprus and Turkey abstained. Greece cast the only negative vote. The Bulgarian delegate was not present at the meeting.

The convention will be laid open for signature on 2 October 1992 (during a meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe). The convention will enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which five member states of the Council of Europe express their consent to be bound by the Charter. It is confidently expected that even more than this minimum figure will sign the convention even on the first day of its being laid open for signature.

The convention is a very comprehensive document. Part II deals with objectives and principles. All states signing the convention must accept Part II. Part III relates to measures to promote the use of regional or minority languages in public life. It deals in some considerable detail with education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life and trans-frontier exchanges. Attempting, as it does, to cover a wide range of quite different language situations, the text of the convention offers a number of options to the contracting parties. In respect of each language specified at the time of ratification, the contracting state will undertake to apply a minimum of 35 paragraphs or sub-paragraphs from Part III of the convention. These must include at least three each from the articles which relate to education and cultural activities and facilities.

After the entry into force of the convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite any state, not a member of the Council of Europe, to accede to the convention. It is expected that some of the evolving democracies in eastern Europe, not yet members of the Council of Europe, will readily sign.

Each contracting state will present periodically to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe a report on the measures it has taken to implement the convention. These reports will be examined in detail by a Committee of Experts, composed of one member per contracting party, appointed by the Committee of Ministers from a list of individuals of the highest integrity and recognised competence in the matters dealt with in the convention. The Committee of Experts shall prepare a report for the Committee of Ministers. In turn, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall make a two-yearly detailed report to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council on the application of the convention.

The adoption of the convention is the culmination of a long process which started in 1984 with a public hearing in the Palais de l'Europe on regional and minority languages. (v. Contact Bulletins, No. 2, Vol 4, No. 3). Following on the public hearing the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe decided to prepare a draft European Charter for Regional orMinority Languages. This was prepared by a Committee of Experts which included two persons who were then members of the Council of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages – Piero Ardizzone (Italy) and Yvo Peeters (Flanders). The Bureau's Secretary General, Dónall Ó Riagáin, was consulted in the final stages of the drafting process before the document was presented to the Standing Conference. In March 1988 the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities adopted the Charter

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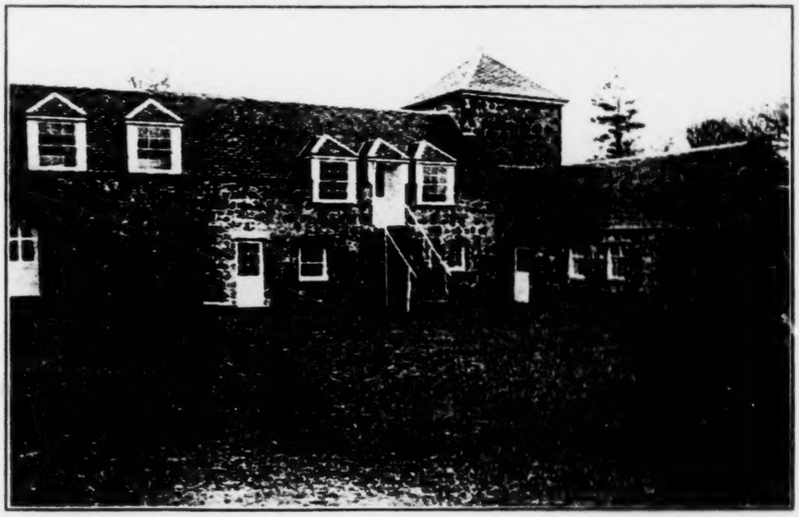

Sabhal Mor Ostaig, see page 3

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European Convention for Regional or Minority Languages

and in October of the same year the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe gave a very favourable opinion of it.

It was then sent to the Committee of Ministers who in turn set up an expert ad hoc committee to examine the document with a view to advising it on what form to accord it. This ad hoc committee known as CAHLR worked for three years and completed its task only in April 1992. CAHLR comprised a delegation from each of the member states of the Council of Europe. The Bureau's Secretary General, Dónall Ó Riagáin, was an observer delegate with permission to speak but not to vote.

Dónall Ó Riagáin expressed delight at the outcome of the project. "This convention affords our languages their first ever international legal instrument of protection and it is probably the most important development, from our point of view, in the past half century. This is our moment of triumph.

"This has been a long drawn-out process and has demanded enormous reserves of energy, patience, a willingness to comprise when necessary and a determination to ultimately succeed. We are all deeply indebted to former Presidents of the Bureau and to our member state committees who have tirelessly lobbied for the convention over the past eight years.

"We are now faced with a new set of challenges. We must ensure that as many states as possible ratify the convention and that when choosing measures to apply to the lesser used languages on their territories they will go for the optimum choices. Those states which did not support the convention need not think that they have heard the end of it. We will be knocking on their doors continually until they accept this set of principles which spell a new bright future for our languages from the Ural Mountains to the west coast of Ireland. The adoption of this convention and the presentation of the Killilea Report and motion for resolution in the European Parliament shows that a process has been started which will not be easily reversed. We are winning!"

The full text of the convention is published with this edition of Contact-Bulletin.

The Northfriesians – a minority. 50 min. colour video on the North Frisians and their struggle for cultural identity. Copies available from (price 59.80DM): Foriining for nationale Friiske, Bensmoor 29. D-2255 Ost Bargum, GERMANY. Tel +49.46.72.16.77

New Publications

Les minorities linguistiques – Droits linguistiques et Droits de l'homme: under the direction of Henri Giordan and published by Editions Kimé, 4 rue Saint-Merri, Paris IV. ISBN 2-908212-20-X. Price 250FF.

This volume of over 680 pages is a collection of papers presented at the international conference "Language Rights/ Human Rights" which took place at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg from 15-17 November 1990. It includes over 30 separate studies by specialists in international law and socio linguistics, and major international texts with reference to cultural rights of minorities included in annex form. The book is divided into four main parts: theoretical approaches, policies and realities of the languages in Europe, and a section on human rights, language rights and peoples' rights. A coloured map depicting the languages of Western and Southern Europe is supplied with each copy.

The submerged Community – An A-Z of the Slovenes in Italy: Pavel Stranj. published by the Slovene Research Institute, Trieste. ISBN 88-7174-030-0.

This 264 page book (price 38,000 Lira) is the first thorough and authentic presentation of the Slovene minority in the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia. Written with a modern and original methodology by a Trieste scholar, it is firmly placed in the context of European minority studies. Compact and thoroughgoing it deals with the world of the Slovene minority, its social and political dimension, its linguistic, cultural, artistic, religious and sporting life, its economic structure, its news media, its numerical dimension and its current juridical position. This, the first English translation is based on the Italian edition of 1989 ("La Comunità Sommersa", 336 pages, 40,000 lira, ISBN 88-7174-031-9) revised and updated to October 1991.

Vijins: Angel Morlang

A 97 page novel in Ladin which touches on country, culture, mentality and our everyday trials and tribulations. Published by Istitut Ladin "Micurá de Rü", San Martin de Tor, Italy.

Mic Romania

A 32 page publication of literature in lesser used Romance languages and dialects such as Jurassien, Asturian, Corsican, Gallo, Norman, Picard, and dialectical varieties of Walloon and Occitan. Extracts also include translation into the majority languages of the state in which the above languages are spoken i.e. Spanish, Italian, French. Further information and copies available from: Mic Romania, Blvd. Léopold 11, B-1400 Nivelles, Belgium. Tel. + 32 67 21 95 91.

One Europe – 100 Nations: R.N. Pedersen. This definitive book explores how European unity has the potential to induce a renaissance among those unrecognised and all too often undervalued peoples. Each nation's story is told and its potential for political autonomy or independence assessed. The lively text is supported by a wealth of maps, tables, historical data, information on all Europe's indigenous languages and minorities, together with full colour illustrations of the flags and arms of the new Europe's 'hundred' nations. Published by Multilingual Matters Ltd, Clevedon Hall, Victoria Road, Clevedon, Avon BS21 7SJ, England. ISBN: 1-85359-123-8.

Cours de Flammand – Het Vlaams dan mem oudders Klappen – Jean-Louis Martel.

400 pages of comparative study of Flemish in French Flanders and Standard Dutch including 30 lessons accompanied by international phonetic transcription. It includes a synchronic study of the grammatical structures of the Dutch dialect of French Flanders. Further information from: MIROIRS Editions, 28 Place de la gare, F-59800 Lille, France. Tel. +33 20 60 65 43.

Diccionari Frances–Occitan

A French-Occitan dictionary of over 112,000 entries and thousands of examples from the works of over 600 authors. Also contains translation to Occitan of scientific and new up-to-date terms. The first volume (letters A-B) is now for sale at 200FF and the second volume (CD) retails at 165FF. Further information and copies available from: Christian Rapin, "A la caminada", Sauvagnas, F-47340 Laroque-Timbaut, France, tel. + 33 53 95 74 34.

Informaziaqe Lil E Rromane Uniaqoro

The newsletter of the International Romani Union, a non-governmental organisation with consultative status at the UNO. This umbrella organisation coordinates a large number of regional and national bodies in some 25 countries throughout the world, its main purpose being to foster a sense of reunification among all Romani (Gypsy) peoples throughout the world. Further information from: Marcel Cortiade, Fondàcia Rromani baxt-Viramlin And E Europaqo Khetanipen, 8 avenue Félix Faure, 75015 Paris, France.

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

Preamble

The member states of the Council of Europe signatory hereto,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members, particularly for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering that the protection of the historical regional or minority languages of Europe, some of which are in danger of eventual extinction, contributes to the maintenance and development of Europe's cultural wealth and traditions;

Considering that the right to use a regional or minority language in private and public life is an inalienable right conforming to the principles embodied in the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and according to the spirit of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

Having regard to the work carried out within the CSCE and in particular to the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of 1990;

Stressing the value of interculturalism and multilingualism and considering that the protection and encouragement of regional or minority languages should not be to the detriment of the official languages and the need to learn them;

Realising that the protection and promotion of regional or minority languages in the different countries and regions of Europe represent an important contribution to the building of a Europe based on the principles of democracy and cultural diversity within the framework of national sovereignty and territorial integrity;

Taking into consideration the specific conditions and historical traditions in the different regions of the European States,

Have agreed as follows:

PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
Definitions

For the purposes of this Charter:

a. the term "regional or minority languages" means languages that are
   i. traditionally used within a given territory of a State by nationals of that State who form a group numerically smaller than the rest of the State's population, and
   ii. different from the official language(s) of that State;

it does not include either dialects of the official language(s) of the State or the languages of migrants;

b. "territory in which the regional or minority language is used" means the geographical area in which the said language is the mode of expression of a number of people justifying the adoption of the various protective and promotional measures provided for in this Charter;

c. "non-territorial languages" means languages used by nationals of the State which differ from the language or languages used by the rest of the State's population but which, although traditionally used within the territory of the State, cannot be identified with a particular area thereof.

Article 2
Undertakings

1. Each Party undertakes to apply the provisions of Part II to all the regional or minority languages spoken within its territory and complying with the definition in Article 1.

2. In respect of each language specified at the time of ratification, acceptance or approval, in accordance with Article 3, each Party undertakes to apply a minimum of thirty-five paragraphs or sub-paragraphs chosen from among the provisions of Part III of the Charter, including at least three chosen from each of the Articles 8 and 12 and one from each of the Articles 9, 10, 11, and 13.

Article 3
Practical Arrangements

1. Each contracting State shall specify in its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, each regional or minority language, or official language which is less widely used on the whole or in part of its territory, to which the paragraphs chosen in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 2, shall apply.

2. Any Party may, at any subsequent time, notify the Secretary General that it accepts the obligations arising out of the provisions of any other paragraph of the Charter not already specified in its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, or that it will apply paragraph 1 of the present article to other regional or minority languages, or to other official languages which are less widely used on the whole or part of its territory.

3. The undertakings referred to in the forgoing paragraph shall be deemed to form an integral part of the ratification, acceptance or approval and will have the same effect as from their date of notification.

Article 4
Existing Regimes of Protection

1. Nothing in this Charter shall be construed as limiting or derogating from any of the rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights.

2. The provisions of this Charter shall not affect any more favourable provisions concerning the status of regional or minority languages or the legal regime of persons belonging to minorities which may exist in a Party or are provided for by relevant bilateral or multilateral agreements.

Article 5
Existing Obligations

Nothing in this Charter may be interpreted as implying any right to engage in any activity or perform any action in contravention of the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations or other obligations under international law, including the principle of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

Article 6
Information

The Parties undertake to see to it that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by this Charter.

PART II
OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES PURSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 1

Article 7
Objectives and principles

1. In respect of regional or minority languages, within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:

a. the recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth;

b. the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question;

c. the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them;

d. the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life;

e. the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;

f. the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;

g. the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;

h. the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions;

i. the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar from two or more States.

2. The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of a regional or minority language. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.

3. The Parties undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.

4. In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.

5. The Parties undertake to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the principles listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 above to non-territorial languages. However, as far as these languages are concerned, the nature and scope of the measures to be taken to give effect to this Charter shall be determined in a flexible manner, bearing in mind the needs and wishes, and respecting the traditions and characteristics, of the groups which use the languages concerned.

PART III
MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS ENTERED INTO UNDER ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 2

Article 8
Education

1. With regard to education, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used, according to the situation of each of these languages, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State, to:

a. i. make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
   ii. make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
   iii. apply one of the measures provided for under (i) and (ii) above at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient; or
   iv. if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of pre-school education, favour and/or encourage the application of the measures referred to under (i) to (iii) above;

b. i. make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
   ii. make available a substantial part of primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
   iii. provide, within primary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or
   iv. apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient;

c. i. make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
   ii. make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
   iii. provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the

curriculum; or

iv. apply one of the above measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient;

d. i. make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or

ii. make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or

iii. provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or

iv. apply one of the measures provided for under (i) to (iii) above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient;

e. i. make available university and other higher education in regional or minority languages; or

ii. provide facilities for the study of these languages as university and higher education subjects; or

iii. if, by reason of the role of the State in relation to higher education institutions, sub-paragraphs (i.) and (ii.) cannot be applied, encourage and/or allow the provision of university and higher education in regional or minority languages or of facilities for the study of these languages as university or higher education subjects;

f. i. arrange for the provision of adult and continuing education courses which are taught mainly or wholly in the regional or minority languages; or

ii. offer such languages as subjects of adult and continuing education; or

iii. if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of adult education, favour and/or encourage the offering of such languages as subjects of adult and continuing education;

g. make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language;

h. provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs (a) to (g) accepted by the Party;

i. set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of regional or minority languages and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public.

2. With regard to education and in respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of the regional or minority language at all the appropriate stages of education.

Article 9
Judicial authorities

1. The Parties undertake, in respect of those judicial districts in which the number of residents using the regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below, according to the situation of each of these languages and on condition that the use of the facilities afforded by the present paragraph is not considered by the judge to hamper the proper administration of justice:

a. in criminal proceedings:

i. to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in the regional or minority languages; and/or

ii. to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language; and/or

iii. to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language; and/or

iv. to produce, on request, documents connected with legal proceedings in the relevant regional or minority language,

if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned;

b. in civil proceedings:

i. to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in the regional or minority languages; and/or

ii. to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or

iii. to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages

if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;

c. in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters:

i. to provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings in the regional or minority languages; and/or

ii. to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or

iii. to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages

if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;

d. to take steps to ensure that the application of sub-paragraphs (i) and (iii) of paragraphs (b) and (c) above and any necessary use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned.

2. The Parties undertake:

a. not to deny the validity of legal documents drawn up within the State solely because they are drafted in a regional or minority language; or

b. not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in a regional or minority language, and to provide that they can be invoked against interested third parties who are not users of these languages on condition that the contents of the document are made known to them by the person(s) who invoke(s) it; or

c. not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in a regional or minority language.

3. The Parties undertake to make available in the regional or minority languages the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of these languages, unless they are otherwise provided.

Article 10
Administrative authorities and public services

1. Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the

Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible, to:

a. i. ensure that the administrative authorities use the regional or minority languages; or
   ii. ensure that such of their officers as are in contact with the public use the regional or minority languages in their relations with persons applying to them in these languages; or
   iii. ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications and receive a reply in these languages; or
   iv. ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications in these languages; or
   v. ensure that users of regional or minority languages may validly submit a document in these languages;

b. make available widely used administrative texts and forms for the population in the regional or minority languages or in bilingual versions;

c. allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in a regional or minority language.

2. In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:

a. the use of regional or minority languages within the framework of the regional or local authority;
b. the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages;
c. the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages;
d. the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages;
e. the use by regional authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;
f. the use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;
g. the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.

3. With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible, to:

a. ensure that the regional or minority languages are used in the provision of the service; or
b. allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request and receive a reply in these languages; or
c. allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request in these languages.

4. With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:

a. translation or interpretation as may be required;
b. recruitment and, where necessary, training of the officials and other public service employees required;
c. compliance as far as possible with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of a regional or minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

5. The parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.

Article 11
Media

1. The Parties undertake, for the users of the regional or minority languages within the territories in which those languages are spoken, according to the situation of each language, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:

a. to the extent that radio and television carry out a public service mission:
   i. to ensure the creation of at least one radio station and one television channel in the regional or minority languages, or
   ii. to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one radio station and one television channel in the regional or minority languages, or
   iii. to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in regional or minority languages;

b. i. to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one radio station in the regional or minority languages, or
   ii. to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;

c. i. to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one television channel in the regional or minority languages, or
   ii. to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;

d. to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audio-visual works in regional or minority languages;

e. i. to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages; or
   ii. to encourage and/or facilitate the publication of newspaper articles in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;

f. i. to cover the additional costs of those media which use regional or minority languages, wherever the law provides for financial assistance in general for the media; or
   ii. to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audio-visual productions in regional or minority languages;

g. to support the training of journalists and other staff for media using regional or minority languages.

2. The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language. The exercise of the above-mentioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as

are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

3. The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of the users of regional or minority languages are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media.

Article 12
Cultural activities and facilities

1. With regard to cultural facilities and activities – especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including *inter alia* the use of new technologies – the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field, to:

a. encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;

b. foster the different means of access in other languages to works produced in regional or minority languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities;

c. foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities;

d. ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;

e. promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population;

f. encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;

g. encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the regional or minority languages;

h. if necessary create and/or promote and finance translation and terminological research services, particularly with a view to maintaining and developing appropriate administrative, commercial, economic, social, technical or legal terminology in each regional or minority language.

2. In respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

3. The Parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad, for regional or minority languages and the cultures they reflect.

Article 13
Economic and social life

1. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, within the whole country, to:

a. eliminate from their legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of regional or minority languages in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations;

b. prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of regional or minority languages, at least between users of the same language;

c. oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities

d. facilitate and/or encourage the use of regional or minority languages by means other than those specified in the above sub-paragraphs.

2. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, in so far as the public authorities are competent, within the territory in which the regional or minority languages are used, and as far as this is reasonably possible, to:

a. include in their financial and banking regulations provisions which allow, by means of procedures compatible with commercial practice, the use of regional or minority languages in drawing up payment orders (cheques, drafts, etc.) or other financial documents, or, where appropriate, ensure the implementation of such provisions;

b. in the economic and social sectors directly under their control (public sector), organise activities to promote the use of regional or minority languages;

c. ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the possibility of receiving and treating in their own language persons using a regional or minority language who are in need of care on grounds of ill-health, old age or for other reasons;

d. ensure by appropriate means that safety instructions are also accessible in regional or minority languages;

e. arrange for information provided by the competent public authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in regional or minority languages.

Article 14
Transfrontier exchanges

The Parties undertake:

a. to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education;

b. for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.

PART IV
APPLICATION OF THE CHARTER

Article 15
Periodical Reports

1. The Parties shall present periodically to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in a form to be prescribed by the Committee of Ministers, a report on their policy pursued in accordance with Part II of this Charter and on the measures taken in application of those provisions of Part III which they have accepted. The first report shall be presented within the year following the entry into force of the Charter with respect to the Party concerned, the other reports at three-yearly intervals after the first report.

2. The Parties shall make their reports public.

Article 16
Examination of the reports

1. The reports presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe under Article 15 shall be examined by a committee of experts constituted in accordance with Article 17.

2. Bodies or associations legally established in a Party may draw the attention of the committee of experts to matters relating to the undertakings entered into by that Party under Part III of this Charter. After consulting the Party concerned, the committee of experts may take account of this information in the preparation of the report specified in paragraph 3 below. These bodies or associations can furthermore submit statements concerning the policy pursued by a Party in accordance with Part II.

3. On the basis of the reports specified in paragraph 1 and the information mentioned in paragraph 2, the committee of experts shall prepare a report for the Committee of Ministers. This report shall be accompanied by the comments which the Parties have been requested to make and may be made public by the Committee of Ministers.

4. The report specified in paragraph 3 shall contain in particular the proposals of the committee of experts to the Committee of Ministers for the preparation of such recommendations of the latter body to one or more of the Parties as may be required.

5. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall make a two-yearly detailed report to the Parliamentary Assembly on the application of the Charter.

Article 17
Committee of Experts

1. The committee of experts shall be composed of one member per Party, appointed by the Committee of Ministers from a list of individuals of the highest integrity and recognised competence in the matters dealt with in the Charter who shall be nominated by the Party concerned.

2. Members of the committee shall be appointed for a period of six years and shall be eligible for reappointment. A member who is unable to complete a term of office shall be replaced in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1, and the replacing member shall complete his predecessor's term of office.

3. The committee of experts shall adopt rules of procedure. Its secretarial services shall be provided by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

PART V
FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 18

This Charter shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. It is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 19

1. This Charter shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which five member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Charter in accordance with the provisions of Article 18.

2. In respect of any member State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the Charter shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 20

1. After the entry into force of this Charter, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite any State not a member of the Council of Europe to accede to this Charter.

2. In respect of any acceding State, the Charter shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 21

1. Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, make one or more reservations to paragraphs 2 to 5 of Article 7 of this Charter. No other reservation may be made.

2. Any Contracting State which has made a reservation under the preceding paragraph may wholly or partly withdraw it by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The withdrawal shall take effect on the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

Article 22

1. Any Party may at any time denounce this Charter by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2. Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 23

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council and any State which has acceded to this Charter of:

a. any signature;
b. the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;
c. any date of entry into force of this Charter in accordance with Articles 19 and 20;
d. any notification received in application of the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 2;
e. any other act, notification or communication relating to this Charter.

Third-level Education through a lesser used language

From its establishment in 1973 as a summer school offering courses in Scots Gaelic (Gaidhlig) and Piping, Sabhal Mor Ostaig has become a focus for innovation in further education and a centre of excellence for people with an interest in the language, music and culture of the Gael.

Over the years an old farm steading at Ostaig has been restored to provide lecture rooms, an administration block, a library, a main hall and canteen facilities. With the restoration of the buildings complete by 1983, the College Trustees were able to undertake the next stage in the development of Sabhal Mor Ostaig – its establishment as a College of Further Education teaching through the medium of Gaidhlig.

The range of full-time Diploma courses at Sabhal Mor give students a grounding in the core subjects of Business Studies, with options in Gaidhealtachd Studies, Office Technology or Information Technology. The courses prepare students for a role in the economic, social and cultural regeneration of their own communities, and the success of the courses can be gauged by the number of College graduates employed in a range of Gaelic-related projects as well as management, accounting, administration, computing and research.

And an extensive programme of short courses is also offered which provides an opportunity to learn Gaidhlig, develop skills on the fiddle, pipes or learn the traditional dances and songs of the islands. These courses have gained in popularity each year and not only attract the best tutors – but also students from all over the world, with over 300 attending in 1991.

The College of Sabhal Mor Ostaig is a registered educational charity, founded by Deed of Trust and administered by a Board of Trustees, with academic policy determined by an Educational Board.

In the early years, when the College only operated as a summer school, the main task was the restoration of the almost-derelict farm buildings. This was achieved through labour schemes and generous assistance from individuals, charitable trusts and private companies.

With the establishment of the full time courses in 1983, and their growth since then, the demand for funding – to provide teaching facilities, information technology equipment, administrative backup and teaching staff – has obviously grown markedly, and as an independent college Sabhal Mor has had to explore new avenues of public funding sources. These sources have now become more securely established, with contributions from a variety of sources. Grants are received from the European Social Fund, the HIDB, Scottish Education Department and the Regional Councils – Highland, Strathclyde and Western Isles.

Plans for further expansion include courses linked to training for Gaelic television, the continued use of Sabhal Mor as a forum for conferences on Gaidhealtachd-related issues, the possibility of a Gaelic research facility, and the ultimate aim of a student accommodation block.

The Library at the College was rehoused in 1989 with assistance from HIDB and now offers a light, airy environment for study. Adding to the stock of 3,500 titles to cater for increasing student demand is an expensive process.

The Gaelic Terminology Database Project, begun in 1986 (see CB 6.1 and 6.2), was initiated to modernise and develop Gaelic terminology to meet demand from the expansion in broadcasting, education and publishing. With over 80,000 entries, the project is now at the Editing and Publication stage.

To provide Gaelic learners who attend courses at the College with study facilities, we are in the process of building up a self-access resource centre. This will include taped transcripts of Gaelic books and radio programmes with parallel bilingual text, book and tape learning materials, and a video library of Gaelic TV programmes which will include programmes such as Can Seo and Abair.

Further information from: Sabhal Mor Ostaig, An Teanga, Isle of Skye IV44 8RQ. Telephone – + 44 4714 373.

Language Policy in Friesland

Friday 3 July 1992 – One of the most beautiful historical yachts of Friesland sailed on one of Friesland's scenic lakes. What bystanders did not know, however, was that this trip was to celebrate the fruitful completion of the work of a State Committee on the use of the Frisian language. The committee had just published a report on the Frisian language in the courts of justice. This report was well worth a feastly trip. It marks the start of a new era of language policy in the Netherlands. Language policy in Friesland is now sailing smoothly towards European standards.

The committee advised the Minister for Justice to normalise the use of the Frisian language in legal procedures. The outstanding features of this report are as follows:

- in courts, all citizens should have the right to speak the Frisian language, a right which has not been guaranteed up to now;
- furthermore, the use of Frisian in legal documents should be guaranteed, in order that these documents in Frisian obtain legal status;
- legal constraints against the use of Frisian in the minutes of legal sessions where the Frisian language is spoken should be abolished;
- the committee suggested that Frisian language courses be offered as part of training courses for the judiciary;
- death and birth certificates should be made bilingual in Friesland.

The chairman of the State Committee, Mr Wendels – who is also the President of the Court of Justice in Ljouwert (Friesland) – stated that, in view of the increasing international awareness of minority issues, this report can hardly be considered an isolated phenomenon relevant only to some part of the Netherlands. In this connection Mr Wendels referred to the draft European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The Minister of Justice, to whom the report was presented on 14 May, expressed as his view that the preservation of the diversity of languages and cultures in a united Europe is important. The citizen's right to use his own language – also in the domains of public administration and courts – should be legally protected, Minister Hirsch Ballin said. He foresees that the unification of Europe might lead to an impoverishment, when the majority of cultures and languages try to dominate the languages and cultures of minorities. He feels that the resistance of cultural and linguistic communities against such a dominance – a resistance which would be correct – could be a drawback for European unification.

In March, the Dutch State Secretary for Home Affairs, Ms De Graaff-Nauta, published the first draft of a text for a bill on the use of Frisian in public administration. Although the text was criticised by Berie foar it Frysk – the Provincial Government Frisian Language Advisory Board – and by the Provincial Assembly of Friesland, the bill in itself shows that in the Netherlands there is a strong tendency to normalise the use of Frisian in public administration as well. Hopefully, the text will be amended in line with the suggestions made by the Berie foar it Frysk and by the Provincial Assembly, so that the language policy in Friesland will follow the guidelines of the new European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

One of the reasons that such a bill is likely to be accepted is that Dutch policy makers feel that the Frisian-Dutch relationship parallels the Dutch-European relationship. Government circles in The Hague feel that the "Dutch-Frisian model" might be of use for other linguistic communities in Europe.

Auke van der Goot

The Provincial Government of Friesland published the text of the bill, the opinion of Ber foar it Frysk and its own comments in a concise booklet, which can be obtained from Provinsje Fryslân, Buro Foarljochting (Information Service), tel. +31.58.925925.
The report of the State Committee on the use of the Frisian Language in the Courts of Justice can be obtained from the Fryske Akademy in Ljouwert, tel. +31.58.131414. This report "Frise in het rechtsverkeer" also contains the results of research on language use and language attitudes of the legal profession.
Both reports are mainly in Dutch.

The Language of the Republic is French

by Henri Giordan

The fears roused by the Maastricht Treaty have had a consequence which is unexpected but nonetheless serious. The anxiety to shelter us from the perils of European integration has led the French Parliament to strengthen the symbolic position of the French language. Henceforth, article 2 of the Constitution places it beside those essential principles of the Republic: our national anthem and the flag. Congress, in its meeting of the 22 June 1992, thus completed the cultural and political project conceived in the fifteenth century and reaffirmed with a remarkable continuity at each essential stage of our life as a nation.

It is known that this linguistic policy first appeared in the Villers-Cotterets decree of 1539. The steps taken since the abbot Grégoire's famous report in the 16th Prairal year II up to the 1975 relative law on the use of the French language is testament to the continuation of this cultural choice: a fundamental fact of the national French ideology.

We are no longer in a position to resume this policy with the same conquering determination of the revolutionary speech which did not hesitate to predict that *"French will become the universal language because it is the language of the peoples"* (Barère, the 8 of Pluviose, year II). This supremist perception of the French speaking countries in the first years of the Fifth Republic, this *"humanism which is woven around the earth, this symbiosis of the dormant energies of all the continents, of all the races..."* (Léopold Sedar Senghor), was not able to withstand the growing number of independent countries in Africa and the global pressure of Anglo-American. Those who are nostalgic for these imperial dreams which draped the French flag for centuries are now forced to fall back into a defensive position.

THE LANGUAGE WAR

This combat in favour of our national language would be perfectly legitimate and would not raise any problem if it had not thus introduced, and in the most solemn way, a principle which is contrary to the spirit and the letter of the Maastricht Treaty. For more than thirty years, the orientation of the founding fathers of the European Community, and especially within the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, has not varied on this subject and this steadfastness is in itself remarkable. Linguistic diversity is a part of the European cultural heritage and should be protected. Reflection and action in this domain has consisted of patiently spelling out the means by which a Europe founded on the respect and promotion of all our diverse linguistic and cultural inheritances would be achieved. The Maastricht Treaty is entirely in the mainstream of this tradition when it declares: *"The Community contributes to the flourishing of the cultures of the Member States with respect for their national and regional diversity while emphasising their common cultural heritage"* (art. 128, Underlining added by the author).

We must understand the implications of this European policy. To thus affirm both a common cultural heritage and, at the same time, a respect for the linguistic and cultural diversity of all the member states constitutes one of the foundations of peace between the nations which is, without any doubt, the most valuable achievement of the European Community since the Second World War. To strengthen the symbolic position of the French language with the aim of allowing it to occupy a privileged position within the community jeopardizes the consensus founded on a delicate balance which does not permit any exceptions.

Unbeknownst to us, this modification of the French Constitution is leading us down a deadly path. Monsieur Lamasoure has the merit to say it openly: it is a question of endowing France with a symbolic weapon so that French – along with English and German? – should be in the future one of the *"two or three official languages"* of an enlarged Europe which would thereby disown one of the fundamental choices which allowed the Community of twelve to assure its cohesion. With a point of view such as this, what future can one predict for Danish, Dutch, Greek, Irish, Luxemburgish, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian, languages which are today on an equal footing with German, English and French in the European Community?

This nationalist reaction is threatening and particularly inopportune coming from responsible politicians in favour of the Maastricht Treaty. To unleash a war of languages is to put oneself on the path which will lead to the awakening of national confrontations. If unfortunately that idea was essential, it would mean that we would be entering into a cultural Europe at two different speeds. Therefore these languages would be treated the same as our country's regional languages.

In actual fact there are two different sets of standards in applying the principle of respect of language and cultural diversity: reinforcing the status of French is a serious matter which is dealt with at the level of fundamental law of the Republic. Granting status to regional languages is secondary and would be better to be the subject of an ordinary law. Knowing that more than 40 private bills were made to this effect to the 5th Republic and that no government agreed to include this item on the parliamentary agenda, the degree of indifference, indeed contempt, that this seemingly trivial distinction receives is measured.

We must emphasise that the reasons for the decision which was made that to legitimise these regional languages is not appropriate in the Constitution remain completely mysterious. On the contrary it is the exclusive entry of the French language in the Constitution which is the problem. France thus becomes, very explicitly, the only country in the Community whose constitution reserves a privileged position for only one official language without referring to the status of the other languages which historically have been spoken in its territory. All the countries which have tackled the linguistic problem in their constitutions refer to all the languages spoken within their national boundaries: Belgium, Ireland and Luxemburg are officially plurilingual and the Italian Constitution does not make any special arrangements for an official language but includes a clause (art. 6) which imposes on the public authorities the duty to protect the "linguistic minorities" of the country. The Spanish Constitution in art. 3 prescribes that Castillian is the official language of the country and other languages can have the status of official languages in their respective Autonomous Regions (this is the case most notably with Catalan, Basque and Galician) and that the Spanish State has the duty to protect all the languages used in the country.

FOR A STATUS FOR THE FRENCH LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

In these circumstances, how is it possible to avoid giving the image that France, on the eve of the Maastricht referendum, is a country contorted by its old nationalist reflexes? How can one plead for adhesion to the European Community when we are trampling underfoot one of its essential principles which has demonstrated its aptitude to guarantee the harmonious coexistence of nations, big and small, and of languages which all, without exception, express in an irreplaceable fashion the universal human condition?

Evidently, it is impossible to revoke what has been decided by Congress. On the contrary, the Government has two possibilities of strengthening France's adhesion to the principles of Maastricht on the question of languages and cultural identity:

– to include in the list of issues to be considered by parliament in the autumn session, the examination of a text for a law

The French language

concerning the regional languages of our country. This legislative act would enable us to rectify the perverse effects of the exclusive officialisation of the French language caused by the amendment of the Constitution.

– to adhere to the European Charter of regional or minority languages, adopted on the 24 of June 1992, under the form of a convention, by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and which is open to the signature of the States from the 2nd of October next.

We will not defend the international position of the French language by engaging, once again, in a futile combat against the ascendancy of English and by dreaming along with the signatories of the recent "*manifesto for the future of French*" (see Le Monde, 5-6 July 1992) of a Europe which would choose French as a common and unique language. We will manage to maintain our position more successfully, especially with the peoples of Africa and Latin America, by strengthening our image as the defenders of cultural pluralism. For this it is urgent to show the example here in France itself. We have an excellent method to achieve this by reinforcing the policy of recognition of the French languages, regional and community, laid out about ten years ago, which helped make the attitudes of contempt and rejection, from which they have suffered for a long time recede. Prompt measures, the adoption of a legislative text and the signature of the European Charter for regional and minority languages should very quickly prove in a solemn way the legitimacy of our linguistic diversity and the price which the nation attaches to the existence and development of languages and cultures – from Alsatian and Flemish to Catalan, from Basque and Breton to Langue d'Oc and Corsican – which make up its wealth and have fashioned its face during the course of a centuries old history.

François Mitterand declared in 1981 that "*the time has come for a status for the languages and cultures of France*" so that finally our homeland will cease to be "*the last country in Europe to refuse its citizens their elemental rights, rights which are recognised by international conventions which she herself has signed*" (speech in Lorient on the 14th March 1981). These campaign promises were not translated into action by the President of the Republic. Today, the debate on which we have tried to attract attention has given a new topicality to his wish.

The author is the Director of the National Centre for Scientific Research. Responsible for a documentation centre on linguistic minorities. This article first appeared in the French newspaper Libération in July 1992.

AER Working Group IV Symposium

Language Rights and Cultural Rights in the Regions of Europe

23–24 April 1992 (Girona, Catalonia)

On April 23rd and 24th 1992 a Symposium of Working Group IV of the Assembly of European Regions was held in the city of Girona (Catalonia) on the subject "Language Rights and Cultural Rights in the Regions of Europe".

The Symposium was organised by the Department of Culture of the Government of Catalonia and by ECTARC (the Secretariat of the Working Group) with the support of the Department of the Presidency of the Government of Catalonia, the Provincial Council of Girona, the City Council of Girona, the University of Girona and the Commission of the European Communities.

Five keynote papers and nine short papers were presented. Active debates by the 125 people attending the Symposium discussed language rights and cultural rights in a continent whose heritage is both rich and, in many cases, threatened. This is happening precisely at a time when Europe has the opportunity, for the first time of uniting.

The Symposium noted with satisfaction the efforts which are being made in some European countries to improve the position of territorial languages, for instance in Catalonia.

Recent initiatives to promote the process of language recovery in Navarra, where the regional law on Basque is being applied, were promising. On the initiative of the Welsh and Frisians, there are projects for the Parliaments of their respective states to enact bills regarding language rights. The Symposium sought the widespread dissemination of information concerning developments in this field.

At the same time, it has to be recognised that there continues to be a gradual decline in the vitality of many language communities. In some cases, such as Welsh, census data have quantified a decline over many decades. In others, such as Occitan, the decline has been greater but, due to the lack of data (which is in itself significant) has not been so well observed.

From the proceedings of the Symposium it can be concluded that one of the main causes of the decline of some language communities has undoubtedly been, and still is, the lack of recognition of their language and cultural rights by their respective states, which govern them with a unitary and centralising orientation.

Therefore, it must be ensured, throughout Europe, that the members of each language community, within their historical territory and also in their dealings with, and treatment by, their state and supranational bodies, see that the membership of their language community is accepted totally and respected.

Each territorially-defined language community should be recognised, even administratively, and should enjoy as high a degree of self-government as possible. Legislative, executive and judicial powers are needed to exercise power in all areas in which the language rights and cultural rights of the community are especially important. This applies particularly to education, culture and leisure, social and health policy, the media and local authorities; and also in the fields of public works, industry and agriculture, regional planning, etc.

In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, regional powers should be recognised, both as a right of a people to their own identity, and also bring closer to citizens the public authorities and the making of decisions that affect them. This principle is applied successfully in pluricultural states such as Belgium, and in some federations such as Switzerland, Germany and Austria. However, in many other states it is not yet applied.

The vesting of power in regional authorities in areas which are crucial for the maintenance of collective identity has now become even more urgent in the light of the Treaty of Maastricht and the progressive transfer of sovereignty from EC members states to the institutions of the European Union.

Coordinated and coherent action by the regions of Europe in the field of language and cultural rights has been difficult, because of their great linguistic, cultural and legal diversity, and the considerable differences between the legislative and executive powers of the subnational authorities in different states.

Because of this, it is considered that the Assembly of European Regions should be established appropriate structures in the framework of its new statutes to deal with these issues.

Apart from the need for the development of regional powers to deal with these issues, there is also an urgent need for a Convention to safeguard regional or minority languages in Europe. This is particularly important if the Council of Europe is to be able to play an effective role in addressing the problems of linguistic and cultural rights in the evolving democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. With a view to effectively addressing these issues, the delegates at the Symposium, together with Working Group IV:

- Express to the governments of the member states and to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe their disappointment at the successive cuts made to the original text of the draft Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
- Call for its immediate approval, in the form of a European Convention; and

continued over

CONFERENCES

International Conference on Maintenance and Language Loss – 1-4 September 1992.
The aim of this conference was to bring together researchers from different disciplines to develop new insights into this important theme of losing and maintaining language. The main themes of the conference were: Linguistic Aspects of Maintenance and Loss; Maintenance Loss and Language Policy; and Educational Aspects of Maintenance and Loss. The conference was held at the Leeuwenhorst Congress Centre, Noordwijkerhout, Netherlands, and further information can be had from the organisers: Steunpunt nederlands als tweede Taal, Faculty of Letters, University of Louvain, Blijde Inkomststraat 7, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.

The Future of the Book in a Lesser Used Language after the Unification of Europe
This conference (v Contact Bulletin Vol. 9 No. 1) will take place from the 7-10 September 1993. Further details from: Management Training Centre Ljouwert, Rengersleane 8, NL-8917 DD Ljouwert, Netherlands.

XVII Seminari Llengues i Educació (Languages in schools)
from 22-24 October 1992, Palau Maricel, Sitges, Barcelona, Catalonia. The presence of more than one language in schools is becoming more and more widespread and as a result schools now need to make a thorough appraisal of the attention they give to languages while at the same time bearing in mind the diverse sociolinguistic situations in linguistic communities which depend on the social presence of each language and the languages that pupils speak at home.

The seminar aims to deal with the following points: Treatment of language spoken by pupils at home in a bilingual situation; treatment of the language spoken by immigrant pupils at home in a bilingual context, and the treatment of foreign languages in a bilingual school. Further information from Josep Maria SERRA, ICE University of Barcelona; tel. + 34 3 318 32 61 ext. 228. Fax. + 34 3 302 45 83.

Language Normalization within legal frameworks in Europe
4-6 April 1993, Santiago de Compostela, Galicia. The linguistic and legislative plurality of Europe is well known and with full European union in 1993 it will become necessary to become more integrated in this field also. This conference aims to be a departure point for such integration and an opportunity to analyse the various legislations affecting our languages. It is hoped that this conference will help one learn how to take more advantage of existing legislation and how to improve legislation which is not altogether favourable to our languages. Further information from Carme Fernandez Pérez-Sanjulian, Axéncia Europea para as Linguas menos Estendidas (Galician sub-committee of the European Bureau), Laverde Ruiz no. 6 3rd F, E-15702 Santiago de Compostela, Galicia.

Forum Europa – Lesser Used Languages and their Literatures
Luxembourg, September 21-29 1992. Further information from Josiane Kartheiser, 4 ancienne côte d'Eich, L-1459, Luxembourg. Tel/Fax: +352.22.68.29.

European Congress on the Rights of Minorities and the Peoples
Athens, 10-13 December 1992. Further information from E.C.B.H., 6 rue Wencker, F-6700 Strasbourg, France. Tel: +33.88.24.18.12. Fax: +33.88.25.10.66.

AER (Cont'd)

- Call on the Governments of those states which have hitherto objected to it not to attempt to preclude favourably-disposed states from adopting such a legal instrument.

The Symposium also:

- Calls upon the Council of Europe to actively pursue its other initiatives relating to minority rights.

Because it is the responsibility of the European Union to overcome the particular viewpoints of each member state, eliminating wherever possible the differences in treatment between the working languages of the Community and the other languages of Europe, the Symposium and the Working Group convey to the Council, Commission and Parliament of the European Communities:

- Their welcome for the implicit recognition of the linguistic and cultural diversity of regions in articles 126 and 128 of the Treaty of Maastricht and for the decision of the EC to establish a Council of the Regions;
- Their call for the earliest possible inclusion of ALL European languages in EC cultural programmes and those relating to literature (e.g. the translation of literary works);
- Their call for the immediate inclusion of Catalan in the LINGUA programme, in accordance with the Reding Resolution (European Parliament, December 1990) and for appropriate provision to be made for the teaching of all European languages in the next review of LINGUA;
- Their hope that the EC will considerably increase its budgetary provision for lesser-used languages.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I write with indignation to give all my support to the European Bureau and to Contact Bulletin. Indignation caused by the attitude of some readers who under the pretext of clarifying or setting straight the work of the Bureau criticize it in what I would call an unspeakable manner were I not to begin to doubt the sincerity of these so-called "supporters of threatened languages and cultures", such as Mr Jordi Costa i Roca. And what about the rude and very aggressive tone of certain letters published in Contact Bulletin Volume 9, No. 1; their authors are obviously – purposely(?) – aiming at the wrong target.

Indeed, I would not have thought that the European Bureau and Contact Bulletin make themselves conspicuous by their repeated attacks on lesser used languages; I never believed that the main concern of this body was to actively fight against minorised language varieties! The most superficial of studies of actions undertaken by the Bureau would prove otherwise – were the need to arise for such.

The same cannot be said of its detractors. And I note the absence – should I say significant absence without even mentioning the non-existence – of Mr Jordi Costa i Roca's association from the daily struggle on the ground for the protection of Catalan in North Catalonia in spite of the discriminatory policy of the French state (in education, media, official, and even now constitutional recognition). As if that wasn't enough: Mr Costa's protests are directed against the Catalan press in Perpinya whom he accuses of being "racist, despicable and discriminatory" (sic) for having criticized French linguistic imperialism. We all know only too well how French is a threatened language! Very recently Mr Costa i Roca took pen to paper to accuse the Catalan press of misinformation, once again in relation to minority languages.

On the other hand, I have yet never noticed any actions being taken in favour of "favoured languages and cultures" as used in the title of Mr Costa i Roca's association… I even fear that his attitudes and his actions are in vein with that of dominant languages and states such as France and Turkey.

Well done to the European Bureau for its solid policy in the protection and dissemination of information on the lesser used languages.

Alà Baylac i Ferrer, Perpinya

IN BRIEF · IN BRIEF

MERCATOR – Information Centres

As reported in Contact-Bulletin Vol. 7, No. 1 MERCATOR is a computerised information network aimed at improving the exchange of information on minority languages and cultures. There are at present four centres, two of which have published their first newsletters.

MERCATOR-LEGISLATION based in Barcelona has already published two newsletters whose aim it is "firstly to promote and make known aspects of the research work done by the Mercator-Linguistic Law and Legislation and secondly, to serve as a platform so that those interested in this centre's activities may make contacts and work together". The newsletters contain legal texts involving lesser used languages as well as the latest updates on legislation in this regard. Further information is available from: MERCATOR – Dret i Legislacio Lingüistics, CIEMEN, Pau Claris 106 1er la, E-08009 Barcelona, Catalonia. tel: +34.3.302.01.44. fax: +34.3.412.08.90.

MERCATOR-EDUCATION based in Friesland has just published its newsletter which will appear three times a year with the aim of keeping readers aware of new developments in lesser used languages in education. Published in English, French and Frisian, with translations into Spanish, Italian, German or Dutch when necessary, it contains information on future events, minority language courses, question and answer service, new publications etc. As reported in the newsletter M-E is at present preparing a follow-up to Helen Ó Murchú's report "Pre-Primary Education in some European Lesser Used Languages" in order to update facts and figures from 10 years ago. Questionnaires have already been distributed to some 35 lesser used language communities and experts willing to compile reports containing information on the current situation of our languages in pre-primary education are still being sought. Further information: MERCATOR-Education, Fryske Akademy, Doelestraat 8, NL-8911 DX Ljouwert. tel. +31.58.131414. fax. +31.58.131409.

The MERCATOR information network consisting of four core centres in Friesland, Paris, Wales and Barcelona is coordinated from the European Bureau's Information Centre in Brussels. A future edition of CB will contain a full report of the activities of all four centres. Contact: Auke van der Goot, Europees Bureau, Sint Jooststraat 49-51, B-1030 Brussels. Tel: +32.2.21.82.590.

Books for Children

The Children's Publishing Secretariat based in Languedoc Roussillon, France (v. CB 9.1) has now published its second newsletter. This bilingual newsletter, French/English, contains information on the latest developments in Children's publishing in lesser used languages. Among the contents is a short article on a proposal from the Secretariat's Advisory Committee to set up a small fair of lesser used language publishers towards the end of the year. Further information as well as copies of the newsletter are available from: Children's Publishing Secretariat, Région Languedoc-Roussillon, 201 Avenue de la Pompignane, F-34064 Montpellier Cédex. tel: +33.67.22.80.76. fax: +33.67.22.81.92.

A MESA – Pola Normalización Lingüistica

The Galician organisation A Mesa has been involved for several months now in a campaign to introduce Galician into the public domain by encouraging local businesses to use the language when possible. Their latest campaign "Rebaixas 91-92" encourages parents to give their children a Galician name through a professionally produced colour brochure containing almost 500 names in Galician along with an explanation of the meanings and origin. Further information from: A MESA, Rua do Vilar 29 1 B, Apdo 247, E – Santiago de Compostela.

Manx

An article in Manx Tales (May 1992) contains an interview by Terry Cringle with Brian Stowell, the Isle of Man Government's first Manx language officer. Dr Stowell is now preparing Manx courses to be introduced into the schools on a voluntary basis from Autumn 1992. The courses are aimed at groups ranging from 7 to 18 and will consist mainly of informal conversational classes.

Queen's Speech

"The European family contains diverse personalities. In this and in its need for tolerance and mutual support, it is like any family. The founders of the European Community wanted to draw strength from that diversity. They sought to manage and channel differences, to bind nations and peoples together in a common endeavour, as free partners.

"You are part of an effort which is unique in the world's history. We are all trying to preserve the rich diversity of European countries because, if that diversity is suppressed, we shall weaken Europe not strengthen it."

Queen Elizabeth II of Britain
addressing the European
Parliament on 12 May 1992.

European Charter for rights of the Child

During its July 1992 plenary session the European Parliament adopted a report and accompanying resolution prepared for the Committee on legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights on a European Charter of the Child. The rapporteur was Mr Juan Bandres Molet (Green – Euskadi).

New President for European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages

At its Annual Assembly, held in Aabenraa, Denmark on 15/16 May 1992, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages elected Helen Ó Murchú as President for a three year term of office.

Mrs Ó Murchú (pictured right), who is well-known in Irish language circles, was one of the founding members of the Bureau and acted as its Secretary during 1983. She is a former Chairperson of Bord na Gaeilge, the state board for promoting the Irish language, and is at present the Director of Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaeilge, the Association of Irish Language Teachers.

On the same occasion the Bureau elected two Vice-Presidents – Prof. Dr Rudolf Kern, a Germanophone Belgian, who teaches in the University of Louvain-la-Neuve and Mr Bojan Brezigar, from the Slovene Community in the Province of Trieste and a member of the Regional Assembly of Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

Warm tributes were paid to the diligence and hard work of the outgoing President, Mme Anna Vari Chapalain, a Breton journalist.

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CONTACT BULLETIN

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1 ECU

"If your language should die...

it is not because its death is inevitable it is because you lacked the foresight and courage to have it live." The words of Dónall Ó Riagáin, founding member and first president of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages and Secretary General since 1984 during a recent talk on the Bureau and its work. The voice of over 40 million users of lesser used languages, the European Bureau this year celebrates its first ten years. With great pride it can look back at the contribution it has been making in promoting the richness of the linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe. The role played by Ó Riagáin in developing the Bureau from its very beginning into the organisation it is today with committees in 10 of the 12 EC member states has been no mean feat.

In the beginning, back in 1979, Mr John Hume MEP (N. Ireland) made a proposal to the European Parliament which demanded certain basic rights for speakers of lesser used languages. Other motions followed and this resulted in a request to Gaetano Arfé MEP (Italy) to prepare a report encompassing all the motions. The report and accompanying resolutions were adopted by the European Parliament on 16 October 1981. A complimentary motion was adopted in 1983.

However, as we all know only too well, resolutions be they adopted or not, have little effect if they cannot in some way be implemented on a practical level, and in May 1982 a colloquy was convened in Brussels to discuss how best the Arfé motion could be put into effect. Many of those attending expressed an immediate need for an association which would speak and act on their behalf at EC level and thus the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages was established.

With a head office in Dublin and a recently opened information centre in Brussels, the European Bureau protects and promotes the lesser used languages of the European Community by concentrating on three main areas: legal and institutional support structures, practical work programmes, and the exchange of information and experiences.

Dónall Ó Riagáin, Secretary-General

Why bother?

The Bureau believes that once certain basic rights and facts are acknowledged there is strong evidence that our languages can have a future – a most viable future. Our languages are an integral part of us, of our country, of our heritage and of the cultural heritage of Europe to which we all belong. If our languages have been ignored in the past by European Institutions this is no longer the case. The European Community is positive towards the cause of our languages and now includes in its budget a provision of 3.5 million ECU to promote regional and minority languages and cultures. It consults closely with the Bureau on practical projects. Some of these projects include specific projects administered by the Bureau itself (study visit programme, computerised information network, newsletter, children's publishing secretariat), while others are projects undertaken by lesser used language communities themselves. The next edition of CONTACT-BULLETIN will include a more detailed account of the Bureau's practical work programme.

The Bureau is therefore a body with a strong background of solid achievement – not a mere talking shop. It is listened to by major European and international institutions and has contributed greatly to the debates on the Council of Europe's recently adopted Charter for Regional and Minority Languages – a major development for our languages as this is the first ever international legal instrument of protection.

The notion of linguistic and cultural conformity is rejected by the EC. The vision of Europe is now one of unity through diversity. We, as speakers of lesser used languages have much to contribute and the Bureau endeavours to ensure that none of us fail in making our contribution. What has been achieved to date will over the next 10 years continue to be achieved through skill and understanding. "EBLUL in the coming decade will ensure that the wonderful linguistic and cultural mosaic which is an integral part of our European heritage will be stronger and more secure than ever before." (Dónall Ó Riagáin, during a colloquy in Brussels organised by the EC with participants from lesser used language communities.)

Diarmaid Breathnach

10 YEARS OF THE BUREAU

A Personal Account by Helen Ó Murchú (President)

Because of my personal involvement in the Bureau from its very beginnings this celebration of its first ten years is necessarily a very personal one. The history of that period has not been comprehensively recorded. Let me share with you, then, some at least of the many satisfying moments. They have turned out to be moments when the history of our language communities in Europe has, quite literally, changed for the better.

The first meeting of various representatives after the idea of a Bureau was accepted was quite remarkable. For several – too many – it was evidently the first time that their concerns had ever been taken seriously before at international level. The problems of the past and the possibilities of the future became inextricably entwined. Nevertheless much work was done. A non-perjorative title was chosen, a work programme drawn up and the beginnings of a constitution. We *were on our way*. A certain Commission representative attended that meeting. As first honorary secretary, I was to get to know him well. It was our good friend Lucien Jacoby.

Mr Aneurin (Nye) Hughes, now Commission representative to the Scandinavian countries in Oslo, very graciously held a reception for us later. Looking across the room and listening to the many languages being freely and animatedly spoken, in friendship and conviviality, with aspirations and hopes shared for a better way forward, brought home to me vividly what this rather nebulous concept of Europe could – and did – really mean. I had found kindred spirits in my personal language odyssey. Nobody would ever again struggle alone.

But aspirations needed practical realisation. The high point of that reception came when Mr Domenico Lenarduzzi handed me the first ever contract for Bureau projects. *We were now well on our way*. We had neither an office nor staff. But both Dónall Ó Riagáin and myself knew that would come – once we began to show results. We were lucky to have the practical encouragement of the chief executive of Bord na Gaeilge, the state language board in Ireland. The Irish government would soon show its own acknowledgement of the work in hand. In those early days, however, Council members had no inkling of the voluntary effort that went into keeping the show going and the caravan on the road. I doubt if they knew, as I proudly distributed the first ever Contact Bulletin, that it had been delivered in the middle of the night before we flew out to Brussels in the early morning!

Contact and cooperation had been established. But hard facts, solid information on the actual situation of our language communities was (and still is) vital to policy development. So we began with the growing phenomenon of pre-primary provision. I was happy to accept the Commission's request to embark on this research. For me, it was probably the most enlightening and educative experience of my life. The breadth of knowledge on modern psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics, the depth of concern for their own communities, the openness and sharing of spirit, the generosity in finding alternative services of information, the ability to analyse emotive situations – all these traits in my correspondents led me to the belief which I stated in that study and still confidently hold. We are the true Europeans – maintaining our own language and culture, often against all the odds, but sharing those of others. We know that languages and cultures are the most vital human resources. We have an experience, honed over long years, that is a resource others should draw on.

That spirit was also very evident in the conferences that followed on different aspects of our cultural experience. The objective analyses of data presented, and many rich arguments heard – all were imbued with an over-riding social concern. These were not facts for fact's sake. But facts to improve the general well-being of others. The solidarity expressed and the deep understandings felt at these colloquia set them apart for me from other congresses that I had attended during my professional career. A common sense of purpose led to common bonding. A new meaning was given to action research.

Knowledge is power. Common knowledge is political power. As we grew to know more and more about our different situations, some common elements emerged. The areas of education, mass media and public administration were prestige domains of linguistic use, crucial to community development. They were reflected in the various propositions prepared and adopted by the European Parliament, and latterly of the Council of Europe.

The concern for our communities reflected in the past ten years of European development has brought us – and European integration – to the present crossroads. We must develop together with a common philosophy forged together. Subsidiarity means two things. Firstly, it means allowing peoples the dignity of making their own decisions in their own best interests. Secondly, it means giving them the resources necessary both to experiment and finally to implement those decisions towards community development. The European Commission and Parliament have taken the initiative in this field over the past decade. Now the Bureau, representative as it is, can take a more active part in bringing proposals forward. Citizenship means active participation at all levels of the political apparatus, in whichever communities one belongs and feels at ease. Rights bring corresponding obligations. Reciprocal rights entail reciprocal obligations. Both subsidiarity and citizenship are inclusive concepts. Any element that negates or excludes other elements is an aberration and cannot be allowed to function, in the interests of the common community good. We, the members of the EBLUL, are uniquely equipped to ensure the sound implementation of both these concepts of subsidiarity and citizenship. We are old hands at it!

In addition, however, to the three domains of education, mass media and

(continued page 4)

A Decade of Interaction

SINCE 1983 those involved in the promotion of a lesser used language have been visiting linguistic communities stretching from the Irish speaking regions of Ireland to the Sorbs of eastern Germany; and from the Germanophones of southern Denmark as far as the Greek Calabrians of southern Italy. During these past 10 years over 550 participants have availed of the Study Visit Programme organized by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages in conjunction with the Commission of the European Communities. The programme offers those from lesser used language areas the welcome opportunity to examine at first hand the educational, cultural, media and administrative structures in another lesser used language area.

Friesland

One of the first visits of the 1983/84 programme was to Friesland (NL) and another visit took place there as part of the 1991-92 programme. Dónall Ó Néill (Ireland) describes in his report that out of a total of 600,000 inhabitants 96% understand the language but only 55% speak it on a daily basis. During a visit to the offices of the Provincial Government participants were informed of a bill being prepared which would end the prohibition of Frisian in government and local administration and make the language compulsory in secondary schools. Since 1955 Frisian could be taught in schools and this was made obligatory in primary schools in 1980. While the legal situation of the language remains somewhat vague official documents may be accompanied by Frisian translations. However one cannot but be aware of the overall decline in the use of this language. During a visit to Tytsjerksteradiel, a small village of 9,000 inhabitants, participants learned how in 1939, 90% of the village's population spoke the language. Today this has fallen to 65%. When one reads back on reports from the 1983/84 visits, however, it would appear that improvements in language maintenance have been made since. Much work is now being done to increase people's awareness of the decline in the use of Frisian, but the general consensus amongst participants on this recent visit was that while much was being done on an academic level and not enough was being done on the ground to address this problem.

Other visits of the 1991/92 programme took place to the Basque Country, Luxembourg, Ireland, Wales and the Balearic Islands.

Basque Country (F)

Although deprived by the French authorities of any official recognition (as is the case for the 6 other regional languages of France) Basque is still spoken by approximately 80,000 people throughout the Southwest region of France and work continues, against great odds, to further the language on a local level. Marilyn Nissen (Germanophone, Denmark) writes in her report of a visit to a Basque cultural institute where study visit participants were shown a data bank being set up in the language, the first of its kind. She also describes in her report the efforts being made to promote tourism in the area in order to increase revenue which could be spent on promoting the language.

> ***Over 550 have taken part in 70 visits to lesser used language regions since the inception of the Study Visit Programme***

Balearic Islands

In contrast to this, tourism would appear to play a totally damaging role in the Balearic Islands according to Pier Luigi Alvau (Catalan, Sardinia). To support this viewpoint he writes how the language is stronger in Valencia which attracts much fewer tourists than the islands. Participants of this visit found the situation to be much healthier at university level. Alvau remarks how participants were impressed by the fact that almost all courses in the UIB (Università delle isole Baleari) were given through Catalan and since the 1983-84 academic year a course in Catalan philology has been available. This has resulted in courses in linguistic planning the conclusions of which have implemented on a practical level.

Less positive about the language situation in the Balearic Islands was Diarmaid Ó Mórdha (Ireland) who refers to an internal dispute on whether Catalan is the language of the islands at all. He writes about a certain school of thought where it is argued that the language should be referred to as Mallorcan and that it even varies from island to island. As regards the electronic media, there is no shortage of radio programmes in the language but television is a problem where only an hour or two are broadcast on the local networks and a special aerial is needed to pick up the all-Catalan stations broadcasting from Barcelona. Both of these participants agreed that the language situation has not improved much since the Islands' being given autonomy but as Ó Mórdha points out in his report the question can be put: which is the more important: the language or political independence? This was partly answered by the Rector of the University who informed participants that he would personally be in favour of sacrificing the language for full political freedom, and if such were obtained it would not be long before the language resumed its rightful place!

Ireland

Unlike the Balearic Islands where Catalan is spoken in Parliament and debates held in the language, Ireland very much surprised participants by its limited use throughout this island where it is the first official language of the State. Like Basque the language has no similarities with the dominant language surrounding it and as Alfons Frenzel (Sorb, Germany) points out in his report, participants could therefore immediately distinguish when the language was being spoken or not. Participants found that much was being done at grass roots level to

(continued page 4)

Study Visits (contd.)

sustain Irish, especially in the field of education.

What impressed Kristina Valencic (Slovene, Italy) most was Slógadh, a youth festival, whose main aim it is to promote the language amongst young people by enabling them to display their talents through the medium of the language thus expressing themselves in the language through the activities they enjoy most.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg is not unlike Ireland in that Luxemburgish is the official language of the state but not an official EC language. The similarity ends there, however, as everybody speaks this language as a mother tongue. Robat Powell (Wales) was impressed by the fact that all Luxemburgers are in fact trilingual: Luxemburgish, French and German are all used freely according to the social context or subject matter: Luxemburgish is the language used at home and socially, German the language of the print media and primary schooling, and French the written medium for local and national administration later becomes the main medium of education throughout the secondary school cycle and in third level institutions. Powell does stress, however, that Luxemburgish is under threat to a certain degree from French in that immigrants choose French as their adoptive language when they come to live and work in Luxembourg, because it is often closer to their native language and therefore much easier to pick up. Luxemburgish can therefore become diminished in oral domains it once held, especially in the capital where 48% of the population is immigrant. On the positive side, however, Powell describes the close liaison that exists between social workers and the immigrant community in facing up to this problem and this has resulted in a more successful integration which is less threatening to the indigenous language of the Grand Duchy.

In spite of the wide usage of Luxemburgish by the local population, participants were taken aback by the lack of public signs in Luxemburgish and written material in the language i.e. newspapers, magazines, etc. In the national press the majority of articles are in German and the remainder in French.

Wales

Clara de Jong and Pieter Breuker (Friesland, Netherlands) subtitled their report on Wales "An Inspiring Model of Bilingual Education". They describe in detail the progress being made in bilingual education on all levels and compared to their own region were impressed by the amount of teaching material available in Welsh compared to their own language.

What comes across clearly from reports received is the enthusiastic feedback from participants who, as well as benefitting from a week in another lesser used language region, are given the opportunity of establishing contacts and planning for future cooperation with representatives from various lesser used language regions who also make up the study visit group. The information note for the 1993-94 programme will be available in Spring 1993, and those interested should write to any of the addresses at the back of this issue for copies.

Diarmaid Breathnach

A Personal View (contd.)

public administration, we need now to concentrate on the very bases of community progress. The twin aspects of economic and cultural development cannot be separated.

Ten years ago, looking to the future, I took out a ten year passport! It expired at the end of November 1992. I have just taken out a new one – for the next ten years, of course. It is a little daunting to see the date 2002, but only because we have become used to 19, not because we cannot rise to the challenge of shaping our own future.

Looking back (and even forward), it may appear that 'la direction du Bureau est trop irlandaise' as somebody recently remarked. It is a source of immense pride to me that this has been so. That the idea was begun and given life by some Irish people. Things have to start somewhere. But what was done by Irish people was not for Irish people alone, as the results so clearly show. *One for all and all for one*, is as useful a philosophy for us as for those other stalwarts within the French state, Dumas' musketeers.

Helen Ó Murchú, M.A., M.Ed.

NEW APPOINTMENT

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages was established in 1982 and has as its general aim to preserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the EC together with their associated cultures. The Bureau has its Head Office in Dublin and an Information Centre in Brussels.

The Bureau now wishes to employ an **Administrative Secretary** in its Dublin Head Office to assist the Office Manager in carrying out various projects – in particular the Bureau's Study Visit Programme – as well as dealing with enquiries and other routine correspondence.

The successful candidate will have:

- a deep commitment to the maintenance and promotion of lesser used languages;
- relevant working experience;
- fluency in the Bureau's two main working languages, French and English, and a good command of another European language, preferably one from Southern Europe (e.g. Italian, Spanish, Catalan). A knowledge of a regional/minority language would be greatly appreciated. If the appointee does not know Irish s/he will be required to acquire a reasonable working command of that language within a year.

A one-year contract will be initially offered to the successful candidate and the Bureau hopes to be in a position to offer a further contract on the expiry of the first one.

Applications, including a full CV and photograph, should be sent to:
The Secretary General, An Biuró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana, 10 Sráid Haiste Íocht., Baile Átha Cliath 2, Ireland.
arriving not later than 23 April 1993.

MERCATOR –

Computerised Information and Documentation Networks

The MERCATOR-Education Team studying a linguistic map. (photo: Leeuwarder Courant)

Much has taken place since the establishment of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages and in recent years many of those involved with the lesser used languages of our Community have been expressing the need to join together all available information on our languages and their cultures. The Bureau felt that the best way of bringing this about was to set up a network which would enable access to, and exchange of, all information relating to our languages and their respective cultures. With the support of the Commission of the European Communities MERCATOR, a group of four computerised information and documentation networks, was established. Coordinated by the European Bureau's Information Centre in Brussels, MERCATOR aims to improve the exchange and circulation of information on minority languages and cultures both inside and outside of the minorities themselves. We can learn greatly from one another's experiences but this is only possible when kept informed about what is happening in lesser used language regions other than our own. MERCATOR answers to this need. Consisting of four pilot centres specialising in various themes (Wales – Media, France – General Studies, Barcelona – Legislation, Friesland – Education), bibliographical data, a census of institutes and experts, and various facts and figures relating to our languages are gathered by the networks which then ensure that such information reaches the relevant people.

The Bureau's Information Centre in Brussels, in its role as general coordinator of all four centres oversees the production of regular publications and the setting up of a computerised interlinked databank. As well as being responsible for publicity and the general marketing of MERCATOR products the Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that MERCATOR itself is catering for the needs of our languages. The directors of each centre meet together with the Bureau coordinator at least twice a year to review the overall operation of the networks and discuss how best they can be developed.

Each pilot centre has a large degree of autonomy and makes its own contacts with a number of corresponding centres from different lesser used language regions. MERCATOR has already achieved concrete results and expects to achieve much more in the future now that it is fully up and running. It is hoped in this special supplement on MERCATOR to give readers of Contact Bulletin an insight into the various centres, their work and their objectives for the future. Readers interested in further information on the MERCATOR Network need only write to:

MERCATOR,
European Bureau,
Sint-Jooststraat/rue St. Josse 49-51,
B-1030 Brussels, Belgium.
Tel: +32.2.2181047.
Fax: +32.2.218.1974.
or to the pilot centres themselves

DiarmaidBreathnach

MERCATOR – Education

Structure

At this moment the Mercator-Education Network consists of 16 participating centres, each representing a language community. Further extension has been planned for 1993. Coordination of this network is carried out by the Fryske Akademy in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Friesland (NL).

We, an enthusiastic team of 8 persons, are – to a greater or lesser extent – involved in gathering information on education matters, storing them in the M-E databank, doing research on the basis of the data, publishing the information and research results and answering all kinds of questions from interested people and organisations.

Collecting Data

Various data are gathered:

1. Data describing the education practice and policy, e.g. learning materials provision, pre-primary education, primary education, etc.
2. Data indirectly related to minority language education concerning: publications, specialised organisations, conferences, workshops, language courses, ongoing research etc.

Even though 16 communities are represented now by a participating centre in the Network, data is gathered in for all linguistic communities of the EC. Thanks to the generous participation of experts from the varius levels and types of education, the M-E databank contains information with respect to all communities, albeit not in the same quantity.

But even in the communities represented in the Network by a centre often a specialist from outside the centre is approached to collect the necessary information. In most cases the correspondents collecting factual data on the education situation present them in the form of a report. By the end of such an activity (project) all the reports are published.

Storing Data

The information received is stored in the databank. Depending upon the nature and the subject of the data they are put in different parts of the databank. Each part is designed separately and specifically according to the needs of future users. Data storage demands great precision and a lot of time. In that way we hope to limit retrieval time for the users. As the information contained in the databank is not yet representative and complete at an elementary level, on-line access is not possible. We think we will be that far within a few years.

Researching Data

We do not intend to merely store the information we receive. We also analyse and compare the facts and needs between the communities and, in some cases, we carry out diachronical research which may also lead to useful conclusions. The research is practice oriented: what can be concluded from the data, what recommendations can be given to the education practice and to the sector of policy makers? With the outcomes of the research we hope to enhance further discussion among specialists in the concerned subject. Important questions will be: Can formulas be adopted from other communities? Is cooperation between communities desirable and feasible? How can cooperation be carried out? In other words, we try to create circles of experts from the same professional background. They will be able to translate our

(Continued next page)

MERCATOR-EDUCATION activities, databank and corresponding products

research & data collection project	DB part	publication/workshop
bilingual education documentation	BIBL	annual provisional bibliography; 1994 final version
information on organisations	ORGA	1990: Mercator Guide to Organisations (MGO) 1992: additions 1993: additions and update
needs/possibilities in learning material development and production	LEMA	end 1992: reports & synthesis
pre-primary education inventory	PREP	winter 1992/93: reports & synthesis
teacher training inventory	EMOL	spring 1993: reports & synthesis
minority language courses	COUR	annual overview
information on conferences etc.	EVEN	quarterly calender
inventory of unpublished, ongoing research	ORES	summer 1993: first overview
inventory of primary education, update	EMU	not yet assessed

MERCATOR-EDUCATION

conclusions into concrete cooperation initiatives.

Providing Information
Even though the databank is not yet accessible directly, we welcome questions concerning the education of regional or minority languages. For a few years, the Question & Answer service of Mercator-Education does its utmost to answer such questions, as well as those relating to the Frisian language in the Netherlands. In most cases we are able to answer them ourselves, sometimes people will be referred to specialised organisations in the community concerned. Please, feel free to address your, preferably written, requests to the Mercator-Education Q&A Service.

Publishing Information
Information is also provided in a general way by means of the publishing of collected data and research results. In the accompanying table you will find an overview of our activities formulated as projects, the corresponding name of the databank part and the printed result. No mention has been made of the organisation of project concluding workshops, since prerequisites have not been fulfilled yet.

For further information you can ask for a brochure and automatic sending of our Newsletter which appears four times a year. Your name will be put on our mailing list Please, mention in which language you would like to receive the newsletter, English or French. Our address is:

MERCATOR-EDUCATION
Fryske Akademy
Doelestrjitte 8
8911 DX Ljouwert/Leeuwarden
The Netherlands
Tel: +31.58.131414
Fax: +31.58.131409

MERCATOR –
Law & Legislation

Legislation – laws, decrees, jurisprudence – is MDLL's (MERCATOR – Legislation) area of research. Of course legislation, at least in the European Community which is MERCATOR's prime concern, is a reflection of legislators' – and indirectly society's – understanding of the linguistic rights of individuals and the communities with which they identify. Hence any research in the area of linguistic legislation requires prior knowledge of the given linguistic situation, its context, the legal system within which it operates and many other collateral aspects. For example, the scope of expressions and the meaning of words in language legislation in one European country are often very different from what one would find in another European country.

So it is a long and arduous task to establish criteria for interpreting laws and for laying common and compatible foundations for the data bank which MDLL is setting up on the whole area of legislation (keywords, fixed and variable, etc.). This stage has now been completed and interested parties can now consult the data (though there are still a few problems with the languages of communication).

The content of the data bank is briefly as follows: computerised files with legal provisions in the broad sense, concerning languages in general or one "minoritised" language in particular (with date of publication, citation of source, geographical area to which they apply, summary of the text and keywords to locate them), bibliographic files (books and articles on linguistic law and legislation only), files containing other information (newspapers, congresses, addresses, etc.)

Other services and activities
MDLL publishes a widely-circulated bulletin, on a periodic basis, which is free of charge at present and which gives a selection of the current linguistic legislative output (documents of international, national and local relevance) in Europe, in particular, and a bibliography of new publications in the various areas it deals with.

MDLL also provides information on the full text of the documents, either by procuring copies of these documents or by giving the sources and advising on how to consult them.

MDLL promotes and participates in congresses, symposia, round tables, meetings, conferences etc. on linguistic law and legislation and also provides publicity for such events.

Projects in the pipeline
As MDLL was conceived of as an international network, one of its immediate tasks is to build up a team of fixed cooperators in all the countries of the European Community. A core team already exists but it needs to be expanded in the coming months. (We hope that the members of the Council of the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages will help us in setting up this team.)

Also, we want to increase awareness of the existence of MDLL and the other MERCATOR centres and with this in mind, we would ask all readers of Contact-Bulletin to let us know of individuals and centres who might be interested in MDLL so that we can get in touch with them and offer our services.

Address
MERCATOR – Dret i Legislato, c/ o/ CIEMEN, c. Pau Claris 106 1r. 1a., 08009 Barcelona (Catalonia). Tel: +34.3.3021244. Fax: +34.3.4120890.

Team
Aureli Argemi (Head of MDLL), Oriol Ramon (Director of the MDLL Programme), David Ramon (Technical Assistant and Administrator).

MERCATOR – Media

The European Network for Documentation and Information on Lesser-used Languages and the Media

Mercator Media is a research and documentation centre responsible for collecting, storing and disseminating information about the media within the communities of autochthonous linguistic minorities of the European Community. Mercator Media is located at the Department of Information and Library Studies of the University of Wales at Aberystwyth and it is one of four centres in a group of thematic networks with the European Bureau for Lesser-used Languages (EBLUL) acting as coordinator.

We define the term "media" in a wide sense, to include radio, television, film, newspaper, magazine and book publishing, archives and libraries, electronic data storage and networks. Our research field is quite vast.

How we obtain our information

Data at Mercator is collected by the team (or occasionally by free-lance researchers) directly from the media concerned i.e. we contact the media institution, say a Corsican radio station, a Frisian magazine etc, and get the information from this primary source. We have developed a detailed questionnaire for this purpose. Articles and studies about the media are also consulted, but we ourselves draft the final entries for the database.

Our research of the media on minority language communities involves communicating with those communities. It is our policy to make contact with the linguistic community through the medium of its own language wherever possible. The Mercator Media Team has always been multilingual, usually with full communicative competence in half a dozen or so languages and a good knowledge of many others. Presently the members of the team have between them a good working knowledge of Welsh, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Breton, French, Spanish, German, English, Catalan, Galician, Portuguese, some Basque and have a passive knowledge of others.

Using the 'lesser used' languages for our research has positive results: the Mercator project itself benefits because responses to our enquiries run at almost 100% – some people are actually thrilled to fill in a long questionnaire because it arrives from Wales in Basque; it gives the language some kind of international status, and, the more we use the 'lesser-used' languages, the less 'lesser-used' they become.

Organising and storing the information

Media institutions (printed, broadcasting, electronic and others) are categorised into principal groups which are then divided into sub-groups. The information is accessed through a special programme written in dbase which offers the user a choice of screen language. It is at present functioning in 13 languages – Welsh, Irish, English, Breton, Basque, Scottish Gaelic, French, Spanish, Galician, Slovene, Italian, Dutch and Frisian. For each entry there is a reference fiche (which is automatically available in every screen language) and a description of varying length, ranging from a paragraph or two to several hundred words. We have a sample of data in each of the screen languages but the bulk of our material is in English and two other languages.

Our Work Programme

The computer data base is an ongoing long term project but we have selected from it to produce the first volume of the Mercator Media Guide. This will cover the most important media in 9 minority language communities – Welsh, Gaelic in Scotland, Irish, Catalan, Basque, Cornish, Breton, Slovene in Italy and Frisian. This volume is already in the hands of the publishers and we are now starting work on Volume 2.

Mercator Media also does contact and research work for the television and film industries. This can take up a lot of time but we feel that if we possess the information now we should use it to help people even if that delays the completion of the database. We have helped many Welsh TV companies interested in making programmes in other linguistic minority communities, and we have given a great deal of time to help a range of media searching for partners for coproduction. Omrop Fryslân, a Frisian TV company was keen to buy a coproduction series, and we pointed them in the right direction. A Basque daily newspaper wanted to organise a conference for newspapers publishing in non-normalised or minority languages – we provided them with contacts. This is an important consolidating part of our work.

This year, we are planning to start publishing a media dossier which will include comparative studies of different types of media in the context of lesser-used languages within the EC. We also

MERCATOR – Media

have plans to work on joint research programmes with institutions in other countries.

We are also aiming to expand our video collection. Over the years, many individuals and organisations have sent us a video along with other documentation about their minority or about a particular aspect of life in their community. We have therefore decided to make an appeal for videos and start collecting as many as we can. We could receive them in the original language and/or subtitled or dubbed. As well as documentary type videos about the various languages, we are interested in obtaining examples of the best creative work in film produced within those languages.

Alun Ffred representing TAC (Welsh Independent Television Producers) presenting a cheque to Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones of Mercator. TAC along with BABEL (Broadcasting Across the Barriers of European Languages – Fonds Européen pour le Multilinguisme Audiovisuel) jointly funded Mercator's subtitling course (August 1992). Also shown from left to right Begotxu Olaizola and Patrick Carlin, participants in the course, and Ned Thomas, the Director of Mercator Media. Photograph by Gerallt Llewelyn.

The Mercator centre at Aberystwyth is also concerned in a general way to increase knowledge of lesser-used languages and to foster contacts between the different communities where these languages are spoken. Our work programme also includes conferences, study visits, discussion groups, lectures and articles in various publications in several countries (e.g. Golwg, Mladika, Egin, Planet). We are often contacted for advice and information on all aspects of lesser-used languages, from business studies courses to the word for 'welcome' in Sorbian. Of course, we can't always give the answer to the question, but we can often point someone in the right direction, perhaps toward one of our Mercator partners or another specialist institution. Our centre is visited annually by people from all over the world.

This year we organised a subtitling course in Llambed/Lampeter, Wales. A Welsh language film, *Nel*, which has received both national and international recognition, including finishing in the last 12 films in the Banff International Film Festival this year, was subtitled into Basque, German and Irish. Three fluent Welsh speakers, each of them competent in one of these languages worked with a Basque, a German and an Irishman all of whom had an extensive knowledge of Welsh.

Mercator Team Members

The director of the centre is Ned Thomas, and there is one research officer, Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, a research assistant, George Jones, and three European Social Fund trainees, Elisa Fernández Rei, Huw Powell-Davies and Nia Wyn Williams. We have been fortunate to be able to train people in information technology under the European Social Fund since the project started and people from Wales, Ireland, the Basque Country, Brittany, the Slovene community of Trieste, Friesland and Galicia have been working with us. After a year or so with Mercator, they return to their countries and they are reliable contacts for us there. We often advise people to contact them because they have a high level of experience in communication between minority language communities.

The internal language or lingua franca at Mercator is Welsh, although everyone does their written work in a language in which they are fully competent. Strong motivation and total immersion means that it takes surprisingly little time for Mercator people to become fluent in the basics of conversational Welsh. This is a valuable experience both for Welsh members of the team and for those from other countries – learning a minority language and helping others to learn your minority language is a rewarding, new experience.

How to get in touch with Mercator Media...

Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Mercator, A.A.G.Ll, Prifysgol Cymru (University of Wales), Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Cymru/Wales. Telephone +44.970.622533. Fax: +44.970.622190.

MERCATOR – General Studies

An analysis of the research work done in the various social science disciplines on so-called "minorities" is necessary in order to create the intellectual foundation for precise and objective knowledge of the true situation of minorities. This is essential to enable minorities to get to grips with their future and for majorities to become aware of the contribution made by regional – or "lesser used" – languages and cultures to the building of a universal culture and, initially, a European culture.

The existence within the Mercator network of a department dealing with interdisciplinary studies on "minorities" (Minorities – General Studies) shows the determination of its promoters to establish rigorously the scientific foundations for the analysis of the situation of "minority" languages and cultures in contemporary society.

The aims of the programme

The aim of the Minorities – General Studies programme is to contribute to the setting up of an interdisciplinary field covering the main issues in "minorities" research. The field is characterised at present by an abundance of work and by a great disorder in the choice of issues and even in the definition of the topic of research. Use is made, without a rigorous distinction being made between them, of expressions such as: languages, national languages, dialects, minority languages, minoritised languages, regional languages, lesser-used languages, local languages, etc. This semantic imprecision is repeated in the discussion of the social reality of "minorities" variously referred to as: national minorities, stateless nations, ethnic groups, ethnic minorities, ethnico-national realities, regional movements, autonomists, independence seekers, etc.

An overview of the current situation reached in the various disciplines and in the various countries is necessary prior to defining any research programme and to devising any policy to define the responses of democratic societies to the demands of minorities.

Method

The selection of studies included in the Minorities – General Studies programme was based on the following criteria:

- theoretical studies or monographs of a general nature, dealing with issues concerning minorities, nationalism or racism;
- monographs on a particular aspect of issues concerning minorities, nationalism or racism but the relevance of which facilitates understanding of general questions;

The programme is centred on Europe and covers in ascending order of detail:

- studies of very general scope which could be relevant to any part of the world;
- studies on Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals; requiring major collaboration with teams in Eastern Europe;
- studies on Western Europe and the Mediterranean area.

To delimit an interdisciplinary field of minority studies it is necessary to gather together the relevant data produced in disciplines such as anthropology, legal anthropology, demography, law, economics, ethnology, geography, linguistic geography, history, linguistics, social psychology, political science, literary sciences, language sciences, sociology, etc.

The selection of bibliographical data is carried out by researchers relying on their personal knowledge of the specialised literature. The role of the archivists is to facilitate access to information and to supply ready-made data to the specialist. In this way the irreplaceable experience of the various specialists gathered together in this programme is tapped and made available to the scientific community and interested members of the public. This pooling of knowledge provides a stimulus to participants by opening up sources of information to which they previously had no access.

To achieve this pooling of documentation and critical thought, it is necessary to automate the data gathering process as far as possible without sacrificing the data standardisation which allows maximum traffic flow from and to the bibliographical data bank thus created.

We therefore required

bibliography and document management software which would manage data in accordance with international cataloguing standards and be user-friendly enough to allow researchers to use it on their own personal computers. With the assistance of the Minister for Education and Culture we have installed and adapted the French-made ORBI™ Unimarc format cataloguing software which fulfills these requirements.

The Thesaurus

In order to set up this data bank a thesaurus needs to be created. This work must be carried out in collaboration with all the teams involved in the Mercator programme and coordinated by the Network Coordination. For our part we have made the necessary contacts with INIST (CNRS) to look after the technical side of the thesaurus creation and we have concluded an agreement with the European Interface programme being carried out in the Centre de recherches Tsiganes in Paris University V under Jean-Pierre Liegeois.

Output

The work carried under the Mercator – General Studies programme will lead to two closely-related types of output:
- a bibliographical data bank on "Minorities – General Studies";
- a number of studies on the "current state of research into minorities" under the scientific leadership of William Safran (University of Colorado), Herve Guillorel (CNRS – University of Paris – Nanterre) and Henri Giordan (CNRS).

Along with the data bank, publication fo these studies will help to provide researchers and individuals interested in the issues with tools not available at present. The work published recently under the direction of Henri Giordan, Minorities in Europe: linguistic rights and human rights (Paris: Kime. 1992. 685 pages), is one of the first fruits to have been borne by this work. A very detailed study of Theories of Ethnicity, by Philippe Poutignat and Jocelyn Streiff-Fenart is in the course of completion in the Institute for inter-ethnic and inter-cultural research (IDERIC) in Nice with the help of the Minorities – General Studies programme. Finally, we have initiated a project on the Present state of studies on minorities in the Balkan region which will be carried out under an agreement with the Za Narodnostna Vprasanja (Ethnic and Regional Research Institute) in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

The Team

The Mercator – General Studies programme team is headed by Henri Giordan, Research Director at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) with the assistance of Herve Guillorel, Head of Research at CNRS (University of Paris X – Nanterre). It consists of Claudio Cratchley, Research Assistant in charge of documentation and Michel Bottin, Computer Engineer, Project Leader at the Ministry of Education and Culture. It has a score of associate members in France and in other countries.

Further information from:
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MERCATOR Information Centres

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BILINGUALISM IN ALSACE AND MOSELLE

According to a special edition of Land un Sproch (Cahiers du Bilinguisme No. 101-102-1991/92) 81% of the inhabitants of Alsace and Moselle consider bilingualism in primary schools to be necessary and useful. This was one of the main conclusions of a survey carried out throughout the region and the results of which are published in great detail in this edition of Land un Sproch. The survey was carried out by the ISERCO Institute and consisted of round tables, interviews with regional decision makers and an in-depth survey of 300 people from the region.

Standard German and its Alsatian and Moselle variations suffered badly as a result of the two world wars of this century when it was linked to fascism and nazism. In a general résumé of the results of the survey 54% of those questioned stated they spoke the German dialect very well while 8% spoke it moderately well, but 58% of those who spoke in dialect as opposed to standard German used it less often than before. They expressed a strong desire, however, to pass it on to their children. Amongst young people the dialect seemed to be losing ground to standard German but a greater awareness has grown amongst inhabitants of the region that their area does have a linguistic entity of its own which needs to be protected and passed on to future generations. Certain mental blocks still exist which draw dividing lines between the germanophone regional identity and a French identity. A large percentage of those questioned agreed that educational authorities, politicians, the media and decision makers have an all-important role in breaking down these mental barriers. The overall conclusion would appear to be that this can only be best achieved through the promotion and encouragement of bilingualism throughout the whole of the region.

For further information and copies of this special edition contact: Cercle René Schickele-Kreis, 31 rue Oberlin, F-67000 Strasbourg. Tel: +33.88.36.48.30. Fax: +33.88.36.35.15.

"Galician – not my native language so I won't speak it"

A recent report from the Language Planning service of the University of Santiago de Compostela gives detailed information on the situation of Galician in the university. Throughout the three main sectors of teachers, students and administration it is reported that only a small number speak Galician as a native language or use it on an everyday basis. In spite of this, however, it appears that the majority of those associated with the university feel capable of expressing themselves in the language.

In general, teaching staff do not use the language in their profession on a regular basis mainly due to the fact that they are not competent enough in it, a problem which could be easily overcome by providing them with courses in the language. More worrying, however, is the situation with students who can speak Galician but do not because it is not their native language. This negative attitude towards the language is indeed difficult to overcome but the Language Planning Service intends to do just that through a progressive "Galicianisation" resulting in bilingualism. Such a proposition was accepted by the University's Legislative Council in January 1991 and is now in force.

Emphasis is being placed on popularizing the language through voluntary nonrestricted training, "or through obligatory training and restricting job openings by linguistic requirements in both public access and administrative jobs taking into account specific objectives and didactic materials to be used in course work at the university".

Instruments for executing the above programme include an advisory commission for the normalisation of the Galician language, a terminological commission and a language planning service, as well as the organisation of various campaigns to increase use of the language throughout the university.

This brief report of only 13 pages is compact and detailed and makes very interesting reading for those involved in language planning for third level educational institutions. Further information from: **Language Planning Service, Servicó de Normalización Lingüística, Pazo de San Xerome, Praza do Obrasoiro s/n, E-15702 Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Tel: +34.81.562265. Fax: +34.81.588522.**

Diarmaid Breathnach

Breton Survey

Another survey was made in Brittany on Breton/French bilingualism and came up with some very positive results. The Conseil Général du Finistère surveyed a thousand people during the period 17-22 August 1992 and 77% of those questioned found bilingual signposting a positive step in the right direction. In summary, two out of three considered Breton to be the true language of the locality of Finistère and more and more Bretons both within and without this area were in favour for such a status to be given to the language. Full results of this survey have now been published by the Conseil du Finistère and can be obtained from TMO Ouest (September 1992, No. 1872) 10 rue Nantaise, F-35000 Rennes, Brittany.

Report on Occitan

Finally, concrete figures on Occitan and its speakers! An in-depth report just published by MEDIA Pluriel i Montpellier contains all the results of a survey carried out amongst the inhabitants of the Pyrénées-Orientales. 998 people from four different Occitan speaking regions participated in the survey and out of this total 48% claimed to understand the language, 28% could speak it, but only 9% spoke it on a daily or regular basis. Interestingly enough more males than females spoke the language. This 57 page report gives very precise details on the language's usage and attitudes towards it and is available from **Média Pluriel, 8 rue Lunaret, F-34000 Montpellier.**

EXPERTS ON LANGUAGE PLANNING MEET IN MALTA

From 18-21 July 1992 experts were invited by the Foundation for the Study of Plural Societies and Il-Fundazzjoni ghall-Istudji Internazzjonali to a meeting organised by them and other important academic institutions, under the sponsorship of Il-Ministeru taz-Zghazagh u tal-Kultura, Il-Ministeru ghall-Educazzjoni u Rizorsi Umani, Il-Ministeru ghall Ghawdex and Il-Bank Centrali ta Malta, to discuss such varied language situations as Catalan, Frisian, Irish and Welsh. Emphasis was placed on matters which they felt, and hoped, might be of interest and of relevance to the case of Maltese.

The following general points arose from the four day debate. Many sociologists firmly believe, on the basis of the experience of languages throughout the world, that bilingual situations are very unstable unless corrective measures are taken. Such measures are often merely steps towards complete replacement of one language by another, usually in the direction of the territorial language being replaced by the international or colonial/former colonial language.

Such processes of language shift are extremely difficult to halt and reverse.

Experts attending the meeting could recall no cases of language shift in Europe initiating from within the community as a result of rejection or antagonism towards the territorial language. On the contrary, in many cases such societies have displayed high degrees of complacency regarding the future of their language, as revealed in articles, books and declarations published in the early stages of the shift, often made in relation to the spread of the international language, which is invariably seen as an instrumental, practical language.

Similar symptoms of such shifts – include the following:

- the gradual encroachment into utterances in the territorial language of loans and even switches into the other language especially when the subject is technical or prestigious;
- the objective of language proficiency in the international language leading to obsessive preoccupation only with attainment in the international language;
- the increasing use of the international language in public, by social leaders;
- the translation of proper names into the international language;
- the gradual exclusion of the territorial language from the public domain, especially in its written form (shop signs, advertisements, contracts, menus, etc.);
- the decline of interest in traditional culture, and in cultural creativity in the territorial language;

The official recognition of both languages in a given territory has almost invariably been ineffective in helping to overcome the problems faced by speakers of the language that, in an international context, is the demographically weaker one. In Flanders, Wallonia and the Swiss cantons, for instance, only one language is now official, notwithstanding the recognition of certain language rights for the speakers of other languages. In Catalonia, too, many sociolinguists feel that the double official nature of Catalan and Spanish is holding up the recovery of Catalan.

The actual size of the language community, whether or not it includes the whole of the population of the national community, or not, is a crucial factor, which may necessitate a dynamic process of language planning and implementation. Such planning is especially important in the context of an increasingly interconnected and closely related world society.

In order to be successful, language planning must involve the community itself, social and political scientists, economists and legal specialists, in a comprehensive treatment of all aspects of the status and extent of the use of the language, including:

- exemplary domains, or areas, such as public administration and the mass media;
- its use in schools, and the teaching of the language to adults, including the development of suitable teaching material in all subjects, examinations in the territorial language and suitable training for teachers;
- and the development, by qualified terminologists working closely with professionals in each field, of the terms needed to cope with new concepts, and the recovery of words being displaced by synonymous loanwords.

In order to succeed, language planning may well have to include legislation which would underline the national character of the territorial language by deeming its use compulsory in certain domains and, when used in conjunction with the other official language or other languages in general, by guaranteeing it a predominant position.

Such planning, which is impossible without large scale and regular sociolinguistic surveys to monitor changes in the objective and subjective situation, is invariably much more likely to succeed in the case of the national language of a sovereign state.

Language planners must be especially sensitive to the attitudes of the population towards native and non-native speakers of each language and, if necessary, include measures to ensure that people are favourably disposed towards learners of the territorial language, and that speakers of this language are not socially stigmatised as compared to speakers (native or otherwise) of the international language. A healthy pride in belonging to the linguistic community is an essential prerequisite to successful status planning.

FUTURE EVENT

International Symposium "Minorities – Rights and realities" 5-8 October 1993. call for papers and information on protection of minorities and implementation of legal provisions, Further information from: Sorbisches Institut/Serbski institut, Bereich Empirische Kulturforschung, Dr Ludwig Elle, Bahnhofstr., 6, D-8066 Bautzen. Tel: +49.3591.44303. Fax: +49.3591.44340.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Herri-Administrazioen Hizkuntz Plangintza / Language Planning in Public Administration: Papers from the conference of the above title held in Donostia/San Sebastian 2-4 November 1988. Published by Herr-Arduralaritzaren Euskal Erakundea. Includes papers in different languages on language planning in European lesser used language regions. Available from: Servicio de Publicaciones del Gobierno Vasco, Becolarra 4, Vittoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country. ISBN 84-7777-079-4.

New Welsh Language Manifesto, published by the Welsh Language Society is an invitation to those interested in safeguarding the Welsh language to come together in an effort to encourage those who believe in community values and cooperation and to set realistic targets for the Welsh language in today's modern world. Further information from: Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, pen Roc, Rhodfa'r, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, Wales. Tel:+44.970.624501.

Discovering Welshness: editors – Oliver Davies & Fiona Bowie. Published by Gwasg Gomer, Llandysul, Dyfed, Wales. 181 pages; price UK£8.95. The 30-odd contributions come from many different backgrounds, nationalities and cultures who have all made a conscious quest for the heart of Welshness through learning the language.

Acts of the International Congress on Studies of the Language, History and Culture of the Albanians of Italy (Mannheim, Germany, 25-26 June 1987), 300 pages. Further information from: Cattedra Di Lingua e Letteratura Albanese dell'Università della Calabria, I-87036 Arcavacata (CS), Italy. Tel: +39.984.493122. Fax: +39.984.493023.

An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Language and Languages – David Crystal: A succinct and comprehensive guide to linguistic concepts and names. Terms are drawn from the various applied areas of language study and the dictionary sets out to answer questions such as "Which language is spoken in such a country", and "how many people speak X" etc. With over 2,700 entries and more than 5,000 cross-references, it is an easy-to-use, quick source of reference to all facets of the subject, and ideal for anyone interested in language or languages. Published by Blackwell Publishers, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, England. (ISBN 0-631-17652-7.)

"Las Minorias Lingüisticas de Europa Occidentale: Documentos 1492-1989". An excellent example of the present editorial activity of the Basque Parliament, this two volume work contains translation in Spanish of all original legal documentation (constitutions, statutes etc.) of all west European countries. 2 vol: 864 pages. ISBN: 84-87122-07-8 (v.1) 84-87122-08-6 (v2).

"Lesser Used Languages – Assimilating Newcomers", Editor Llinos Dafis: Proceedings of the conference held at Carmarthen in 1991, organised by the Joint Working Party on Bilingualism in Dyfed. Copies available from: Cydweithgor Dwyieithrydd yn Nyfed, 11/12 Stryd y Brenin, Caerfyrddin, Dyfed SA31 1BH, Wales. Tel: +44.267.237985.

"Kurzgefasste Geschichte der Dolmitenladiner" (A short history of the Dolomite Ladins) – Bepe Richebuono. A 264 page account of this community's history from 7000BC to today. Published by the Istitut Cultural Ladin "Micura de Rü" San Martin de Tor, Italy.

"Educazione bilingue in Sardegna – problemi generali ed esperienze di altri paesi" (Bilingual Education in Sardinia – general problems and experiences of other countries): Elisa Nivola. Published by Edizioni di Iniziative Culturali, Via mammo 13, I-07100 Sassari, Sardinia. (ISSN 88-86007-07-8).

"Burgenländisch Ungarn" – A 53 page account of the Hungarian minority in the Austrian Burgenland whose numbers have diminished by 73% since 1923. This booklet gives a brief history of this community and a description of its present day situation. Published by the Centre of Austrian Ethnical Groups this is No. 4 of a series of booklets on ethnic groups. The first three volumes dealt with the Slovenes, Czechs and Slovaks, and the Roma and Sinti. Volume 5 will be about the Burgenland Croats. Copies and further information available from Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum, Teinfaltstr., 4, A-1010 Vienna, Austria.

"Sölring, Phonologie des Nordfriesischen Dialekts der Insel Sylt" – Dirk Willkommen. An indepth 300 page study of the Frisian dialect of the island of Sylt, Germany. Published by the Department of Frisian Philology, Christian-Albrechts-Universität, Olshausenstraße 40, D-2300 Kiel 1, Germany. (ISSN 0920-3028).

"The Challenge of Diversity" – Medwin Hughes. A collection of articles on the state of the lesser used languages of Europe to mark the tenth anniversary of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. The diversity of subjects and approaches in this volume attests to the richness of our European heritage and to the importance of securing adequate support for promoting the multicultural nature of the European Community. The volume includes a collection of essays on the role of lesser used languages within an integrated Europe. Particular attention is drawn to language planning, multiculturalism, language shift and planning. A second volume subtitled "primary case studies" contains studies of 30 lesser used languages and their place in primary education.

"Autrefois des Hommes, Préhistoire des Pays catalans" – Jean Abelanet. A 204 page account of pre-history Catalonia. Published by Editorial Trabucaire, 3 carrer Ausias Marc, F-66000 Perpinyà. (ISBN: 2-905828-36-6).

Aotearo – Speaking for Ourselves is a discussion document on the development of a New Zealand languages policy. The report was commissioned by the New Zealand Ministry of Education and was prepared by Jeffrey Waite. There are two volumes in the report. Part A is an overview document and Part B deals with the various issues raised. The proposals of Mr Waite are of a very broad nature and consider the use and promotion of the Maori language, and indeed of other languages spoken in New Zealand, in practically all domains of life. ISBN: 0-478-05686-9 and ISBN: 0-478-05687-7. Publisher: Learning Media, Ministry of Education, Box 3293, Wellington, New Zealand.

An Darna Comh-Labhairt air Forfhais agus Sgrùdaidhean nu Ghàthachadh na Gàidhlig

Second Conference on Research and Studies in the Maintenance of Gaelic

The second FASGNAG Conference will be held at Sabhal Mór Ostaig, Teangue, Sleat, Isle of Skye, Scotland between early afternoon Wednesday 24th and midday Saturday 27th, March 1993.

Papers and posters are invited reporting upon research into the use and maintenance of Gaelic from any perilinguistic discipline or perspective: e.g. sociology, sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, geolinguistics, population studies, psycholinguistics, attitudinal studies, social history of language, education studies, etc. Offers of contributions will be warmly welcomed, whether of completed research, work in progress or project planning.

Sabhal Mór Ostaig was recently successful in the award of support for the Second FASGNAG Conference from the Economic and Social research Council under its Research Seminar Competition for 1992/93, which is gratefully acknowledged.

The conference fee is provisionally in the order of £75 (which includes daytime lunches, teas and coffees, and the conference dinner, but is not inclusive of accommodation). Details of local accommodation, and further details regarding bookings will be forthcoming from the Short Course Organiser. Offers of papers and details of conference programme are available from the Conference Organiser. Addresses for both are given below:–

Short Course Organiser,
Donnie Campbell, Sabhal Mór Ostaig,
Teangue, Sleat, Isle of Skye IV44 8RQ,
Scotland, UK.
Tel: Ardvasar (04714-) 373. Fax: Ardvasar (04714-) 383.

FASGNAG Conference Organiser,
Dr. Kenneth McKinnon, Ivy Cottage,
Ferintosh, by Conon Bridge, Ross-shire IV7 8HX, Scotland, UK.
Tel: Dingwall (0349-) 63460. Fax: Kessock (0463-) 73283.

Minority Centre for Leck

Dagebüll. The Friesenrat (Frisian Council), the umbrella organisation for Friain bodies in North Friesland, unanimously welcomes the moves to set up a European Minorities Centre in the German-Danish borderland. At a meeting in Dagebüll (on Friday, 13/11/92), representatives of the Nordfriisk Instituut, the Nordfiesisches Verein für Heimatkunde und Heimatliebe, the Foriining for nationale Friiske and the Eiderstedter Heimatbund discussed the progress of the plans.

The idea of setting up a scientific institute to research, describe and investigate issues concerning minorities from a pan-European perspective was first conceived by the former Schleswig-Holstein Commissioner for the borderland, Kurt Hamer. The project has since then received the backing of the Schleswig-Holstein State Premier Björn Engholm and the Danish Prime Minister Poul Schlüter. It is expected to be almost entirely funded by the European Community and the Council of Europe. The Friesenrat contends that the work of the Minorities Centre should begin without delay in view of the growing conflicts in Europe. On an interim basis the Institute could be accommodated in the existing institutions of the Heimvolkshochschule and the European Academy.

CINEASTES BRETONS

Cinéastes Bretons groups together 100 cinema and video technicians in Brittany. This association, unique in France, aims to encourage and assist the setting up of dynamics for local audiovisual productions in France and the rest of Europe.

By means of:

BROADCASTING: A non-commercial broadcasting logistic: every year, Cinéastes Bretons offers programmes made up of its members' latest films, in various areas (festivals, towns, various networks).

A broadcasting logistic on the commercial circuit: a network of 15 cinema halls which, with the support of associations, undertakes to show 6 documentary films per year (beginning 1992); other broadcasting actions (schools, associations, etc.).

POST-PRODUCTION: Video editing bench with all supports.

PRODUCTION: Cinéastes Bretons, in association with the production company, La Huit, is setting up a production tool for local films: La Huit Bretagne.

Further information from: Cinéastes Bretons, 4 rue Madame Moreau, 29300 Quimperlé. Tel: +33.98.39.02.80. Fax: +33.98.39.04.30.

French Education Minister supports European Charter for Regional Languages

In an article in France's daily newspaper Le Monde (9.1.93) it is reported that Education Minister Jack Lang has drawn up measures for the preservation of the "languages and cultures of France". This text preceded a recent agreement between the Education and Culture Ministry and the regional Council of Haut Rhin (Alsace). The agreement ,which was signed on January 7 last, aspires towards greater equality between French and the local language. After consultation with teachers, children's parents and local representatives schools in the region may apply to teach 13 hours in French and 13 hours in German. This agreement very much reflects the spirit of the Council of Europe's recent European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (see CB vol. 9, no. 2) which France has not signed and has been strongly opposing since 1993. Monsieur Lang, stating that he did have some reservations about this Charter, conceded that he would be in favour of France adding its signature to it. **D. Breathnach**

Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales – largest cultural festival of its kind in Europe

A ceremony at the Royal National Eisteddfod

The Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales is unique in that it is probably one of the largest cultural festivals of its kind in Europe, annually attracting more than 150,000 visitors over a period of ten years. It is held entirely through the medium of Welsh, a language widely recognised as one of the oldest living language in Northern Europe.

The Eisteddfod is a competitive festival which encompasses all aspects of the arts in Wales – music, dance, drama, literature and fine art. A modern festival by today's standards, the Eisteddfod's roots are firmly planted in over eight hundred years of tradition.

The Eisteddfod evolved from what may be described as bardic tournaments in which poets and musicians would compete against each other for a seat of honour in the households of noblemen. Winning such a tournament was akin to securing a contract of employment, for poets depended on the patronage of wealthy noblemen and landowners for their livelihood.

It is widely believed that bardic tournaments were in existence as long ago as the 10th century when Hwyel Dda, a Welsh King, is reputed to have awarded a seat of honour to a poet in his household during a competitive meeting at his court. A 12th century manuscript refers to a similar gathering at Lord Rhys ap Gruffudd's castle in Cardigan in 1176, which included poets and musicians from all over Wales.

During the 15th century a competitive meeting called an "Eisteddfod" (which literally means a sitting or gathering) was held in Carmarthen, where a serious attempt was made to curb the activities of travellers and minstrels accused of bringing the profession into disrepute.

The Caerwys Eisteddfod of 1523 brought further stricter guidelines with the intention of regulating the patronage system. Poets and musicians were now graded according to rank and status, their place in the hierarchy clearly defined. But social change saw the rapid decline of the patronage system and so the poets were relegated from the comfortable homes of the noblemen to local inns and taverns.

At the beginning of the 19th century an Eisteddfod of historical significance was held at the Ivy Bush Inn in Carmarthen. By this time the Eisteddfod was no longer confined to poets and poetry competitions, but had developed into a fully fledged folk festival on a much larger scale.

Taking part in the Eisteddfod was a society formed in 1792 by eccentric Welsh scholar Iolo Morgannwg. Calling themselves "The Gorsedd of Bards of the Isle of Britain", the society was made up of Welsh "druids" – poets and musicians who were conferred degrees and who marched in procession in full ceremonial regalia.

Renewed interest in the Eisteddfod began to emerge during the latter half of the 19th century which resulted in the first National Eisteddfod as we recognise it today being held at Aberdare in Mid Glamorgan in 1861.

Nineteen years later in 1880 the National Eisteddfod Association was formed and charged with the responsibility of staging an annual festival to be held in North and South Wales alternately, and with the exception of 1914 and 1940 this target has been successfully achieved.

Over the years the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales has developed into a multi-faceted festival worthy of note, and a unique celebration of Welsh language, culture and heritage. Further information from: Royal National Eisteddfod, 40 Parc Ty Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff CF4 5WK, Wales. Tel: +44.222.763777.

Records of the European Conference on "Innovation and Tradition" issues concerning linguistic minority communities, Udine-Codroipo, 14-16 September 1989. By Nereo Perini, Udine. Università degli Studi-CONFEMILI, 1991. 270 (2)S.

This volume, which consists of papers in Italian, Friulan, French, English and German, is the record of a Conference held in Udine (Friuli) in September 1989 and attended by representatives of 16 Western European minorities. The purpose of the Conference was to consider the state of preservation, survival prospects and revival potential of the various minorities. The discussions were organised into three working groups dealing with "Music, Theatre, Art", "Importance of the Territory", and "Didactic Applications". A special chapter is devoted to the Friuli region. The volume closes with 4 short summaries (one general and one on each of the specific topics) and a resolution.

EUROSKOL, EWROSGOL, EUROSKOALLE '93 SESSION

The third session of "Euroskol" gatherings of children at school in bilingual educational systems (minority/regional language and national language) is to be held between the 14th and 18th April 1989 in the province of Friesland, Netherlands.

Euroskol – Brittany

In 1987, the management of the DIWAN Breton schools decided to launch this event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their educational system. Thus was born the idea of a coming togetherfor children (between 9 and 12 years old) from the various regions of the Europe of the Twelve, launched under the name of'Euroskol'.

In April 1988, the town of Brest welcomed almost 500 children (Slovenes, Catalans, Flemings, Ladin-speakers, Basques, Welsh, Irish, Provencals, Friesians, Danes, and so on).

Sport, a Common Language

Over a period of three days, the various delegates come "face to face" in games and sporting events, so much enjoying each other's company that problems of "communication" are entirely absent.

During all this, the adults follow a series of conferences on such subjects as "Bilingualism and Education", "Education and the Economy". One of the most memorable events of Euroskol '88 still remains the Friday evening concert, when Johnny Clegg, the "White Zulu", attracted a crowd of 12,000 people.

Euroskol – a Permenent Fixture

At the summing-up meeting at the end of the first Euroskol, every delegation expressed its satisfaction, so the decision was taken then and there to follow up this event, with a second session which was held in Wales in 1991.

Ewrosgol 91 – Fantastic Family Welcome

Unlike the Bretons, who chose a large town and accommodation of youth hostel type, the Welsh decided to accommodate Ewrosgol right throughout Pwllheli in the the heart of the Welsh-speaking region. Children were made welcome by families living in all the surrounding villages.

Euroskoalle – Friesland

This year's Euroskoalle is to be held between the 14th and 18th April in Ljouwert in Friesland (the Netherlands) and will involve discussion groups, get-togethers for children, and exploration of Friesland and its bilingual system of education. The children will once again be accommodated by families and without a doubt, the '93 event already looks promising and full of surprises.

The only thing that remains to be wished for in the future would be more representation from the linguistic communities of "The South", the Mediterranean regions.

Please get in touch with the following for any information on EUROSKOALLE 93: MSU, Sixmastrjitte 2, NL-8932 PA Ljouwert/ Leeuwarden, Netherlands. Tel: +31.58.890222. Fax: +31.58.880585.

Anna Vari Chapalain

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I was incensed by the article by Mr Baylac i Ferrer published in Vol. 9, No. 2 under the heading "Letter to the Editor" and which has just come to my attention. How could you allow such insulting lines to be printed about a man who has devoted his life to the so-called minority languages? You did not write the article yourself and we would not wish you to act as censor – but there are limits to the freedom of each of us. Lies and insults should be systematically weeded out, out of respect for the readers and the individuals concerned.

Lies? Yes. I have never read articles "in a coarse tone" written by Mr Costa i Roca. Mr Baylac i Ferrer's tone on the other hand leaves a lot to be desired.

Insults? Yes. How can anyone call into question the Catalanness of Mr Costa i Roca? One has only to consider his life (refusal to remain under the authority of those who wished to crush Catalonia (1939), French Resistance membership, and active participation in different associations to defend "regional, minority, endangered or lesser used" languages and cultures) to realise that Mr Baylac i Ferrer has no grounds to cast such insulting aspersions.

Mr Costa i Roca's criticisms of Contact in relation to languages "forgotten" by the Bureau must be seen in their true light taking into account the personality and – let it be repeated – the Catalanness of Mr Costa i Roca.

I myself am secretary for the territory of France of the AIDCCM of which Mr Costa i Roca is President. I can assure you that I have never felt him to be an enemy of our cause. Also, Catalan in France has been and continues to be defended by our association, just like all the other languages in France.

Yours etc. –

Pierrette Berenger,
A.I.D.L.C.M., 84 rue des 3 Frères
Carasso, F-13004 Marseille.

Titsch & Töitschu

A book of approximately 150 pages with the words and music of songs in "Titsch" and "Töitschu". This illustrated songbook also includes folk dances and covers native songs in addition to those which came to the Lys Valley through trade by the Gressoneyers in Switzerland and Germany. Naturally the autonomous Region's anthem (in French) is also included. Price: 30,00 Italian Lira

The two old Alemannic languages of the Lystal are seriously endangered by the influence of Italian. To prevent their demise we seek to pass the language on to the children at a young age. Two illustrated childrens' books have been brought out, one in "Titsch" and one in "Töitschu". Price: 30,000 Italian Lira each

The Walser Kulturzentrum (Walser cultural centre) is a member of the Internationale Vereinigung für Walsertum (international Association for Walser Culture) and contributes articles to the six monthly periodical **"Wir Walser"**.

The Issime-based **"Augusta"** association which has close links with the cultural centre has been publishing a high quality annual review since 1969. Price per edition: 10,000 Italian Lira.

The above publications are available from: Walser Kulturzentrum, Heinrich Welf, Sonnenbergstr. 37d, CH-6000 Luzern 7, Switzerland.

First International Symposium on European Languages and Legislation

Organised by the Galician subcommittee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used languages in collaboration with the Commission of the European Communities and public and private institutions in Galicia, a symposium on minority languages and legislation brought together over 300 delegates in Santiago de Compostela from 16 to 18 October 1992. Among the speakers were legal experts on language from as far apart as Ireland, Italy, Belgium, Finland, Wales, Catalonia, the Basque Country, Galicia and representatives from the Council of Europe and the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. For three days legal experts and linguists entered into lively debate on the legal situation of minority languages and the variance in their status from one state to another. The main aim of the conference was to make a deep analysis of anything concerning language and legislation and from this to learn how linguistic equality can best be brought about for all languages. The conference ended with the adoption of a declaration which, amongst other things, called for all languages to be treated equally by giving legal status and protection to all languages still deprived of such and that this be taken account of in national and international agreements and conventions. Further information available from ASPG, Rúa Pardo Bazán 25, 2', E-15005 A Coruña.

Diarmaid Breathnach

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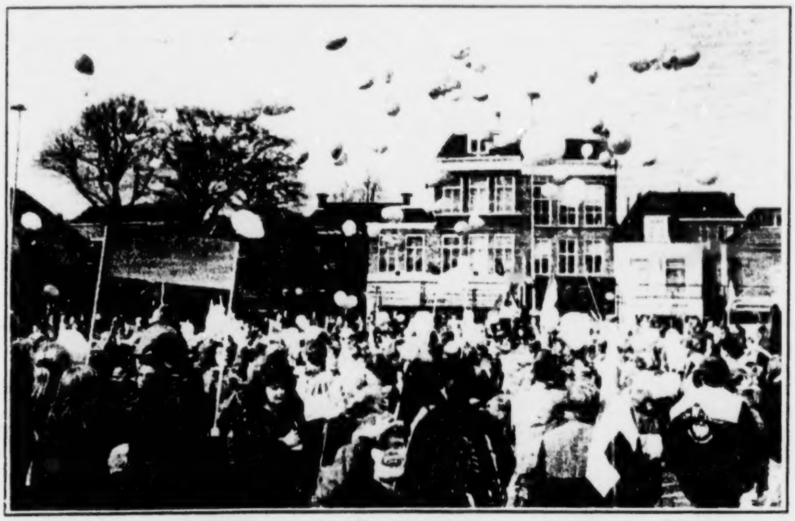
1 ECU

UN SUPPORT FOR LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Questions concerning the rights and responsibilities, the condition and the future of minorities now occupy high points in the agenda of the United Nations, the CSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Community and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.

Societies resolved themselves into economic classes and the ethnic component of individual and group identity was largely irrelevant to these great cosmopolitanisms, though states such as Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union made considerable claims for their particular policies on nationalities. The post-modern "deconstructed" era in international relations is characterised by apparently contradictory trends. On the one hand there is a movement towards the internationalisation or globalisation of environmental resources, humanitarian and rights issues which transcends Cold War inhibitions. On the other hand, we are witness to the emergence or recrudescence within and between states of virulent forms of ethnocentrism, hatred of diversity, the exhumation of buried antagonisms and the obscenity of "ethnic cleansing".

The minorities issue is inextricably linked to these broad movements. It is clear that practices of repression and discrimination; deliberate attempts to destroy cultures and create ethnic homogeneity, violate fundamental canons of morality. Such acts function as a grain store of grievances for the future so that the children of today's victims become tomorrow's agents of revenge. It is therefore imperative that the internationalisation of human rights, and in particular minority rights is allowed to succeed. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, represents an important step forward in the internationalisation of minority rights.



This year's Euroskoalle Festival in Friesland was a great success. The carnival atmosphere notwithstanding, much serious discussion took place and the conference papers have already been published. See page 7 (:Jacob van Essen).

The League of Nations, the United Nations and the Question of Minorities

Throughout much of its history, the United Nations had not devoted a high level of attention to minorities. Recent political upheavals have changed all this. Minorities are now perceived as part of the deep structure of all modern states and as a significant element affecting relations between states.

There is no reference to minorities in the UN Charter or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, though the former prohibits distinctions on the grounds of race, language, or religion, with a more elaborate formula in article 2 of the latter. However, General Assembly resolution 217 C (III) stated that the United Nations "cannot remain indifferent" to the fate of minorities.

De minimis, it should be stressed that, whatever rights may be possessed by minorities or their members, they also partake of self-determination in virtue of belonging to "the people as a whole" and thus cannot be excluded in the computation of peoples' rights.

Minorities which can be classified as indigenous are protected under the provisions of ILO Convention No. 107 of 1957, and No. 169 of 1989, and children of minorities or indigenous peoples are the subject of article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (see below).

At the regional level, the most advanced corpus of instruments on minority rights has been elaborated under the CSCE process: particularly

Continued page 2

UN Support (contd.)

since the Vienna Follow-Up Meeting concluded in 1989.

At the universal level, instruments directly naming minorities are relatively few and appear in varying contexts. The major examples are:

1. Article 5.1(c) of the UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education 1960
2. Article 30 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989;
3. Article 27 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This is the most important of the global standards against which any advance represented by the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to Minorities should be measured:

   "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language."

The statement by Poland to the Human Rights Commission is representative of state opinion and incorporates widely-shared perceptions:

"Even though the text, like all draft texts, was not perfect, it appeared to fulfill two essential requirements: firstly it constituted a comprehensive international instrument in the field of protection of minorities, all of whose rights were clearly specified, and secondly, it clearly set out the commitments by which states could universally agree to be bound in so sensitive a sphere. It was thus a sound document, in line with the general approach to the question of international standards for the protection of the rights of minorities, and which, while ensuring a satisfactory balance between the rights of minorities and the obligations of states, ultimately safeguarded the interests of the nation as a whole. The need henceforth was to consider procedural solutions for the implementation of the Declaration..."

The future of the Declaration was also alluded to by the representative of Austria in the Third Committee of the General Assembly:

"Once this declaration is adopted... it should then not be filed and forgotten, but implemented and filled with life, so as to contribute to overcome situations of tension relating to minorities."

Conclusion

The ultimate "success" of the Declaration will be related to the encouragement of constructive attitudes by states through the creation of a political and psychological climate favourable to group survival and development. The text correctly proposes that this is in the interests of states. The Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities is a significant if modest contribution to the developing discourse of principles and practice in the treatment of minorities, a question which, as the UN Secretary-General recognises, has risen to the top of the international agenda. Its adoption by the United Nations is a necessary, if not sufficient step along the road to addressing a problem through the civilising influence of law.

Dr P. Thornberry, Dept. of Law,
University of Keele,
Staffordshire, England.

United Nations Declaration

on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the UN on 18 December 1992

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that one of the basic aims of the United Nations, as proclaimed in its Charter, is to promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Desiring to promote the realisation of the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as other relevant international instruments that have been adopted at the universal or regional level and those concluded between individual Member States of the United Nations,

Inspired by the provisions of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights concerning the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

Considering that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to the political and social stability of States in which they live,

Emphasising that the constant promotion and realisation of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as an integral part of the development of society as a whole and within a democratic framework based on the rule of law, would contribute to the strengthening of friendship and cooperation among peoples and States,

Considering that the United Nations has an important role to play regarding the protection of minorities,

Bearing in mind the work done so far within the United Nations system, in particular the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the bodies established pursuant to the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant

United Nations Declaration

international human rights instruments on promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Taking into account the important work which is carried out by intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations in protecting minorities and in promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Recognising the need to ensure even more effective implementation of international instruments with regard to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Proclaims this Declaration on the Rights of persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities:

Article 1

1. States shall protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories, and shall encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity.
2. States shall adopt appropriate legislative and other measures to achieve those ends.

Article 2

1. Persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (hereinafter referred to as persons belonging to minorities) have the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, and to use their own language, in private and in public, freely and without interference or any form of discrimination.
2. Persons belonging to minorities have the right to participate effectively in cultural, religious social, economic and public life.
3. Persons belonging to minorities have the right to participate effectively in decisions on the national and, where appropriate, regional level concerning the minority to which they belong or the regions in which they live, in a manner not incompatible with national legislation.
4. Persons belonging to minorities have the right to establish and maintain their own associations.
5. Persons belonging to minorities have the right to establish and maintain, without any discrimination, free and peaceful contacts with other members of their group and with persons belonging to other minorities, as well as contacts across frontiers with citizens of other States to whom they are related by national or ethnic, religious and linguistic ties.

Article 3

1. Persons belonging to minorities may exercise their rights, including those set forth in this Declaration, individually as well as in community with other members of their group, without any discrimination.
2. No disadvantage shall result for any person belonging to a minority as the consequence of the exercise or non-exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration.

Article 4

1. States shall take measures where required to ensure that persons belonging to minorities may exercise fully and effectively all their human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law.
2. States shall take measures to create favourable conditions to enable persons belonging to minorities to express their characteristics and to develop their culture, language, religion, traditions and customs, except where specific practices are in violation of national and contrary to international standards.
3. States should take appropriate measures so that, wherever possible, persons belonging to minorities have adequate opportunities to learn their mother tongue or to have instruction in their mother tongue.
4. States should, where appropriate, take measures in the field of education, in order to encourage knowledge of the history, traditions, language and culture of the minorities existing within their territory. Persons belonging to minorities should have adequate opportunities to gain knowledge of the society as a whole.
5. States should consider appropriate measures so that persons belonging to minorities may participate fully in the economic progress and development in their country.

Article 5

1. National policies and programmes shall be planned and implemented with due regard for the legitimate interests of persons belonging to minorities.
2. Programmes of cooperation and assistance among States should be planned and implemented with due regard for the legitimate interests of persons belonging to minorities.

Article 6

States should cooperate on questions relating to persons belonging to minorities, including exchange of information and experiences, in order to promote mutual understanding and confidence.

Article 7

States should cooperate in order to promote respect for the rights set forth in this Declaration.

Article 8

1. Nothing in this Declaration shall prevent the fulfillment of international obligations of States in relation to persons belonging to minorities. In particular, States shall fulfill in good faith the obligations and commitments they have assumed under international treaties and agreements to which they are parties.
2. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall not prejudice the enjoyment by all persons of universally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms.
3. Measures taken by States to ensure the effective enjoyment of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall not *prima facie* be considered contrary to the principle of equality contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
4. Nothing in this declaration may be construed as permitting any activity contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

Article 9

The specialised agencies and other organisations of the United Nations system shall contribute to the full realisation of the rights and principles set forth in this Declaration, within their respective fields of competence.

Lift Off for Welsh on Satellite

For the first time ever, the Welsh language was seen on satellite television on St David's day, 1st March 1993. After months of preparations, *Roc 93* was officially launched and was beamed to every corner of Europe on MTVTEXT.

Roc 93 – the only comprehensive guide to the Welsh rock scene is a magazine of reviews, interviews, news and a gig guide which is beamed free of charge to the thousands who own a satellite dish in Wales and Europe. The service was launched with a countdown to the historic event at UCW Aberystwyth Student's Union with a cross section of the scene, from groups to record labels present.

"With the advent of Roc 93 on satellite MTVTEXT, the Welsh language will take a confident step into the twenty-first century. Roc 93 will also open the door to thousands of new followers for the Welsh rock scene," said Berwyn Rowlands, the director of Premiere Cymru Wales who will be supplying the service.

Sarah Chadderton, editor MTVTEXT, said that she was proud to be a part of the pioneering new service, "Premiere Cymru Wales have worked hard on this new service. MTVTEXT look forward to an exciting partnership with Roc 93," said Sarah. All owners of satellite TV will be able to watch Roc 93, 24 hours a day by calling page 352 on their satellite teletext service. Roc 93 will supply viewers with an up to date service in both Welsh and English. Plans are also in hand for Roc 93 to become an ambassador for the Welsh scene, supplying pages in other European languages.

"Roc 93 is the first time another language apart from English is seen on MTVTEXT. Premiere Cymru Wales in partnership with other companies and individuals within the scene can now confidently broaden the horizon of the Welsh language to a wider audience within Wales and Europe," said 26 year old Berwyn Rowlands.

More information from Siôn Jobbins: +44.970.617990.

"Royal" Study Visit to Scotland

Participants on the Study Visit to Scotland

When the participants on the 1993 Study Visit to Scotland assembled in Glasgow for the start of their tour, little did they know that they would be paving the way for a royal visit to some of the places on the programme, later in the week, in Stornoway.

The 13 participants from Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Netherlands and Ireland began their week long tour of visits by assembling in Glasgow on Sunday 21 March for a briefing with the Study Tour Organiser.

The visit, which had been organised by the Scottish sub committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, involved travelling from Glasgow to the Isle of Skye; from the Isle of Skye to the Western Isles and back to Glasgow via Inverness – a total of 550 miles by bus and 3 different ferries all within a period of five days.

The programme had been devised very much with the interests of the participants in mind. Because a high proportion of the participants were from an educational and journalistic background the visits were concentrated on bilingual or Gaelic medium educational establishments, a bilingual publishing company, art galleries and heritage centres and television and radio studios.

In Skye the group visited the internationally renowned Sabhal Mor Ostaig (v. CB 9.2), the Gaelic medium college. One of the smallest Gaelic medium schools in Scotland was visited at Sleat Primary School, and tours of the Clan Donald Centre and the newly opened Aros Heritage Centre near Portree were included in the Skye programme. The visitors sampled their first taste of true Highland hospitality – and Skye malt whisky – at a dinner and ceilidh which had been provided by the Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise Company.

In the Western Isles, the group visited the local authority headquarters of Comhairle nan Eilean, the local art gallery, An Lanntair (which was visited later in the week by the Prince of Wales); the Gaelic Television Broadcasting Centre (which was opened two days later by the Prince of Wales), a visit to a tweed mill and the Radio nan Gaidheal studios. A dinner and ceilidh by Comhairle nan Eilean provided the participants with an opportunity to demonstrate their skills at Scottish Country Dancing and in addition to an enjoyable programme of Gaelic songs, accordion and pipe music from local artistes, the evening later took on an international flavour, when the participants contributed with their own traditional music and poetry.

While the journey to the Western Isles from Skye to Harris was fairly rough – some of the participants felt a bit under the weather because of sea

Continued page 5

The Global Gaidhealtachd

Expansion programme launched for hi-tech Gaelic forum

Membership tops 300 – grows 40% in one year

The GAELIC-L electronic bulletin board was started on the ancient Celtic feast of Bealtaine (May Day) 1989, yet it already has 350 members. Although this hi-tech forum devoted to Irish, Scottish and Manx Gaelic is growing at 40% per year, it is now set to expand even further. The 3 owners of GAELIC-L are launching a major expansion programme. The aims being to link up with other Gaelic networks in Ireland and Scotland, and to reach anyone who doesn't realise how easy it is to participate in the Global Gaidhealtachd.

GAELIC-L proves that the ancient tongue of the Gael is just as hi-tech and as ready for the future as English. Messages in Gaelic are being bounced off satellites and transmitted around the world to all the subscribers in only a few minutes.

Purpose

This is a non-political forum for Gaelic speakers to exchange news, views and information, and as a help system for learners of all three Gaelic languages.

GAELIC-L has registered subscribers in most Irish universities and there are also contributions from fluent speakers in Nova Scotia as well as Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Scotland.

Although there are subscribers in traditional Celtic areas such as Scotland, Ireland, Nova Scotia and Wales, there are also many subscribers in such far flung places as America, New Zealand, Geneva, Hong Kong, Alaska and Hawaii.

In addition to the messages on the list, there is also an extensive electronic library which may be accessed by any subscriber, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Material in the library includes a record of every message sent on GAELIC-L, as well as a range of computer programmes and other reference material of use to speakers or learners of Gaelic, for example:

- A computer programme to speak the time in conversational Gaelic
- A list of Gaelic-related events in London and Scotland
- A list of every Gaelic choir in the UK
- Information on courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
- Book reviews
- Bilingual texts for learners
- A guide to commercially available "Teach yourself Irish" materials

... as well as many other things.

Access

Access to GAELIC-L is generally only available to people in colleges, universities and computer companies, but this is set to change as the computer network is growing at a dramatic rate. There are now many companies offering access to the worldwide electronic network, and it is considerably cheaper to send electronic mail across the world than it is to use telephones. Many private individuals are now able to connect up to the world via a PC in their house for about the price of a phone rental. By linking GAELIC-L to the RURTEL network based in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and to the GAELTEL network in Ireland, we will make it considerably easier for many native speakers to join in.

To subscribe to the list, send a mail message to: LISTSERV@IRLEARN.UCD.IE containing the single line SUBSCRIBE GAELIC-L <your name> (e.g. SUBSCRIBE GAELIC-L John MacLeod) and you will be automatically added by the computer which "runs" GAELIC-L.

To send a message to everyone on the list, send it to: GAELIC-L@IRLEARN.UCD.IE.

We have recently developed software which can automatically compile an index of every message sent on GAELIC-L. This will make it much easier to search the GAELIC-L records for useful information. However, this is just a start. We hope in the future to develop software which will allow people to look for words (like a thesaurus), to check their spelling or even to perform partial translation between the three Gaelic languages at the press of a key.

The dispersal of the Gael across the world did much to reduce the number of Gaelic speakers. We hope that the ease with which isolated Gaelic speakers can communicate across the network will do much for the good of Gaelic, wherever it may be.

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Scottish Study Visit

(Contd.)

sickness – the journey from the Western Isles to Ullapool was a complete contrast and could not have been undertaken at a better time since conditions were ideal for a pleasant three and a half hour sail. The overnight stay in Inverness – the Highland capital – featured a buffet, organised by the Highland Regional Council, prior to the journey back to Glasgow on Friday 26 March.

Following a visit on Friday morning to Sir John Maxwell Primary School in Glasgow, one of the largest Gaelic medium schools in Scotland, the participants had the opportunity to spend the rest of the day in Glasgow, which had three years earlier been European City of Culture.

A number of the participants enjoyed their visit to Scotland to such an extent that they extended their stay by a few more days and took the opportunity to visit Scotland's capital city of Edinburgh. The study visit reports are awaited with much anticipation.

Donald Martin

A commentary on Scots broadcast on Radio Scotland

Many people would be delighted to work in the field of Scots but the lack of recognition, prestige and especially major financial backing for the language means it is still generally marginalised and ignored. Not a few contrast its position with the more favourably regarded Gaelic tongue. Big bucks are now flowing into Gaelic television programmes. O fortunate freelances of Gaeldom! As someone who has had a high profile attempting to raise awareness concerning our mother tongue, Scots, I'm often asked what I feel about the Gael's media bounty by people who presume I'll demand that some of the funds be channelled towards Scots. Well, no, actually. Divide and rule was ever a Scottish problem to which I've no desire to contribute and besides Gaelic needs every penny it can get to stem the erosion of what is also an integral part of Scottish cultural identity. Languages, especially ones that have previously been suppressed, need economic support. The Gaels have fought their corner well and deserve their success. I only wish awareness of the importance of Scots was as high and Scots speakers as politically motivated to demand similar recognition. But why? say the monoglots. They don't realise that a different language gives you a different window on the world, that every language is a unique expression of a specific culture. If a language dies, the way of perceiving the world through that language dies with it. For example, as a people we Scots pride ourselves on our rampant egalitarianism and most of us hope it will always be engrained in our society. That may be, but its retention as a value will be a lot more secure if the demotic language of the people, Scots, continues to be spoken. Egalitarianism comes easier to the lips in Scots than it does in English. In a similar way, Gaelic, Urdu, Punjabi, Mandarin, and the myriad other tongues spoken in this country have their own genius, and all should be cherished. What about communication, what about comprehension, what about my standard English, I hear you say. I hear ye. There's no problem. I'm talking about bilingualism. English should be valued as a lingua franca for all these groups to communicate with one another, but it should never be at the expense of our mother tongues, particularly the indigenous ones. Indeed English is in such a secure position that far from wanting to take money from Gaelic to support Scots, the obvious way forward to restore Scots in status is to rechannel a fraction of the vast sums of money supporting English in education, the media and the arts, towards Scots. After all these major institutions are supposed to reflect our culture!

Last month Ian Crichton Smith and I represented Scots and Gaelic at a festival of lesser used languages and their literatures in Luxembourg. Like everyone there, I was happy to use my English, French and German to communicate with Frisians, and Faeroese, Catalans and Corsicans. But the memorable moments were when these people sang or recited or spoke with passion in their own tongue. For me it was a privileged glimpse, not of the past, but of an ideal Europe of the future. There, the 19th century dinosaur of the nation state will be replaced with a structure where cultural and linguistic diversity is celebrated, instead of regarded as a threat.

As a Scots speaker, I felt particularly at home discussing our situation with the likes of Luxemburgers and Galicians who speak languages once perceived to be coarse provincial dialects. Both are taught in the schools and broadcast extensively. Will Scots ever achieve that kind of status? Never, if we blame other people for the decline of our language and whine when the Gaels get their act together. And maybe never, unless more people value it enough like me to overcome their social conditioning and speak it in more formal situations. People like, for example, my fellow broadcasters who may have spoken the tongue in the far off youngness of their lives, but are self conscious about doing so now. Do it, colleagues, it gives you a delicious feeling of freedom – I've likened it, not too closely mind you, to coming out. You couldn't? But I bet you might consider it if the request was backed with a share of 9 million pounds worth of programmes in the offing. That may not be the case, yet. But the signs are portentous – I was in three meetings last week!

Billy Kay

(first broadcast on Radio Scotland, October 1992)

Notice to Readers

As our readers are already aware, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages has had a Documentation and Information Centre in Brussels for a little over a year. This has given the Bureau representation in the capital of Europe.

We are at present in the process of developing this centre in Brussels. A journalist and an archivist/researcher have been working with us since November 1992 and we intend to systematically collect books, reports, periodicals and relevant press cuttings. We are convinced that our centre should include all relevant documentation pertaining to minority language issues.

We therefore request all our readers to send us books, brochures, periodicals, as well as information on new publications and projects, at the address below. Material sent will generally be acknowledged in Contact Bulletin.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Wolfgang Jenniges,
European Bureau for
Lesser Used Languages,
Information Centre,
Sint-Joostraat 49,
B-1030 Brussels.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bilingual Education in Friesland, Facts and Prospects

– Koen Zondag (editor)

A 120 page volume of the proceedings of the conference organised during this year's Euroskoale in Boalsert, Friesland on April 17 last. Topics discussed include bilingual schooling in Friesland, the role of the teacher in transitional bilingual classes, and the situation of regional and minority languages in education throughout the lesser used language regions of the EC. It ends with a bibliography of publications in English concerning bilingual education in Friesland (Netherlands) and in North and East Friesland (Germany). Published by Gemeenschappelijk Centrum voor Onderwijsbegeleiding in Friesland, Sixmastrjitte 2, NL-8932 PA Ljouwert, Netherlands. ISBN: 90-74022-18-9.

Euskal Herriko Herri Erakundeen – Barne Errotulazioa

A Castilian/Basque, Basque/Castilian dictionary of administrative terminology. With over 1,000 terms in each language this dictionary covers all areas of public administration from simple words like 'closed' (cerrada-itxita) to 'department of management of public exhibitions and recreational activities' (Jendaurreko Ikuskizunak eta Josteta Iharduerak Kudeatzeko Bulegoa – Negociado de Gestión Espectáculos Públicos y Actividades Recreativas). Published by Euskal Herriko Autonomi Elkarteko Administrazioa/Administración de la Communidad Autónoma del País Vasco; Price 350 pesetas, ISBN 84-7777-094-8.

The Catalan Language Today

– Marc Leprêtre

Published by the Catalan Government's Culture Department this is the second edition, revised and updated, of the English version of this 51 page account of the Catalan language today. Subjects covered include the language and its literature, speakers of Catalan, legal framework, public administration, education, the socio-economic world, media and cultural production. Statistics are also included throughout. Published by the Generalitat de Catalunya, Department de Cultura, carrer Mallorca 272 9è, E-08037 Barcelona, Catalonia. ISBN 84-393-1935-5.

Publizitatea eta Hizkuntza ez Normalizatuak – Edorta Arana and Joxe Jabier Iñigo (editors)

Papers from the conference "Lesser Used Languages in Advertising" which was held in the basque Country in 1991. This publication contains almost 200 pages of talks given during the conference which includes advertising in Quebec, the Basque Country, Belgium, Catalonia, Galicia as well as papers on the theme of lesser used languages in advertising in general. ISBN: 84-604-4799-5. Copies and further information available from: Euskal Kulturaren Batzarrea, Baleazaleen kalea 12-1A, E-20011 Donostia, Basque Country.

Scuola e Minoranze Linguistiche oggi in Italia –

Sergio Bonato (editor)

Papers from the conference "Minority Languages in the Schools of Italy Today" held on 4–6 October 1991, organised by the Institute of Cimbrian Culture in Roana and the Italian Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. This 97 page collection of papers contains contributions from representatives of Italy's linguistic minorities as well as some contributions from other parts of Europe. Themes covered include the problems of multilinguism in Italian schools, maternal language versus foreign language, regional languages in primary education as well as contributions from Corsica and Friesland. Further information from Sergio Bonato, via Pozzo 16, I-36010 Roana, Italy.

The Nordic Languages, the status and interrelations – Lars S. Vikor

A 250 page indepth study of the indigenous languages of the Nordic countries of Greenland, Iceland, the Faroes, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Åland and Finland. Topics discussed include historical background, linguistic descriptions, the internal relations between these languages as well as inter-Nordic relations, the present linguistic climate where these languages are spoken and a description of institutions, academies etc. involved with the languages. Published by Nordisk Språksekretariat, Postboks 8107 Dep, N-0032 Norway. ISBN: 82-7099-203-8.

The MERCATOR Media Guide

– Janet Davies (editor)

As reported in the special MERCATOR supplement in the last edition of Contact Bulletin this publication offers a comprehensive guide to television, radio, press, publishers, libraries and bookshops serving nine minority languages in the European Community. The nine languages included in this volume are Breton, Catalan, Welsh, Basque, Frisian, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Cornish and Slovene. Each chapter deals with one language and begins with a brief overview of the languages' general situation followed by a summary of its position in the media of the member state in which it is spoken. This is then followed by a list of media bodies, etc. dealing with the language. Most of the almost 200 entries in this volume contain between a half and one and a half pages of information. Published by: University of Wales Press, 6 Gwennyth Street, Cardiff CF2 4YD, Wales. ISBN: 1-7083-1204-7.

Drets Lingüístics i Dret Fonamental a l'Educació –

Antoni Milian i Massana

A comparative study of linguistic rights and fundamental rights to education in Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada and Spain. This book gives detailed analysis of the educational laws in these various states and their regions. In addition to these detailed analyses it points out the vast differences from one state/region to another and how each legislative structure is best suited to each particular area. Perhaps the main conclusion made by the author is that whereas the same legislative structure cannot be valid for every region, one must guarantee the child's right, irrespective of linguistic background, to an education in its own language. Publisher: Generalitat de Catalunya, Institut d'Estudis Autonòmica, carrer Mallorca 272 9è, E-08037 Barcelona, Catalonia. ISBN 84-393-2355-7.

Computer Operating System developed for Irish

Apple Computer has recently launched an Irish language version of the operating system for its world famous Apple Macintosh computer, the first such computer operating system to be developed for a European 'minority language' and the first Irish language computer operating system in the history of the State. The new Macintosh system which was localised on behalf of Apple by an Irish-American publishing and software company, Everson Gunn Teoranta, was launched by the Irish Minister for Energy, Mr Noel Treacy, TD, and has already been greeted as a far reaching educational and cultural initiative by members of the Irish speaking community.

The new computer operating system was devised by Everson Gunn Teoranta, a specialist software and publishing company set-up to serve the minority language markets at home and abroad. "As a company, we have established many useful contacts with minority language groups working with indigenous Americans and with both the Welsh and Scots to help to provide localisations in their own languages. The Irish interface does exactly what French or German interfaces do except that it does it in Irish Gaelic", according to Company Director, Ms Marion Gunn.

"EGT had to solve some very tricky linguistic and technical problems. English word order is very different from that of Irish and localisation involves very careful selection and even the creation at times of suitable technical terms and the physical reshaping of hardware elements; for example, enlarging or reducing the size of command buttons to fit as snugly around the Irish words as they do around the American English of the original Apple version", Ms Gunn says.

Further information from: Marion Gunn, Everson Gunn Teoranta, 15 Port Chaeimhgein Íochtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire. Tel (01)2839396/782597.

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CONTACT BULLETIN

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1 ECU

New Welsh Language Bill in 1993?

In response to several years of campaigning by Welsh language supporters, the UK government published its Welsh Language Bill in December 1992. The Bill aims to provide 'equality' for the language and enhance the status, powers and budget of the Welsh Language Board. This article examines the socio-linguistic context of the language, the measure's main proposals, some of its weaknesses and the early reaction of Welsh speakers.

Linguistic context

Of Wales' 2.8m population, nearly 19% are bilingual. Although the number of Welsh speakers has been decreasing in absolute and percentage terms since the beginning of this century, when statistics first became available, the 1991 Census indicated that this decline has been arrested.

First analyses of the census appeared to suggest that the number of speakers had grown by a few thousand since 1981. But closer scrutiny reveals that there was in fact a small decline in the number of Welsh speakers, from 503,549 in 1981 to 496,530 in 1991 a drop of only 1.4%. **This percentage change compares with a massive decline of 17.3% during the** decade 1961 to 1971, and a fall of 6.3% from 1971 to 1981.

However, this superficially disappointing picture hides massive growth among the young and continued decline among the old. Within the 3-15 age group the percentage able to speak Welsh has gone up from 18% to 25% within a decade!

If this growth is to be sustained a wide range of further measures are needed – educational, economic, housing, administrative, promotional and legal, on a national as well as community level.

Given favourable conditions during the rest of the decade, experts predict that there will be a turnaround in the actual numbers of Welsh speakers by the turn of the century.

Administration in Wales

Nearly all 'domestic' matters in Wales are administered by the Welsh Office, which is run by civil servants answerable not to the people of Wales, but to the Secretary of State for Wales. He has a seat in the Cabinet and is answerable to the government in Westminster.

There is no elected body at an all-Wales level, and most functions of the Welsh Office are carried out by a large number of organisations popularly known as 'quangos', an acronym derived from 'quasi autonomous non-government organisations'. Their functions range through health, housing, economic development, the arts, tourism, conservation, sport, broadcasting, education and so on. Quango board members, 1,600 of them all told, are appointed directly by the Secretary of State for Wales.

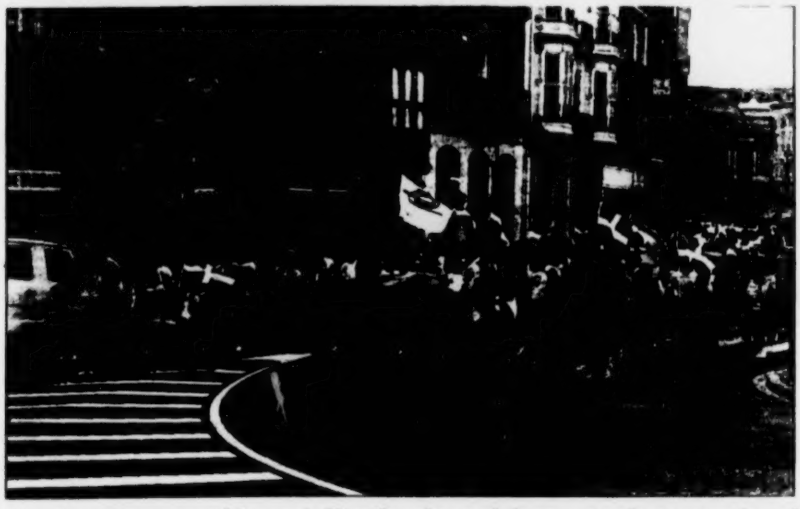
Although more than 30 of Wales' parliamentary constituencies regularly return left of centre members, the nation has been governed by Conservative administrations since 1979. During this period there has been a steady increase in the funds allocated for Welsh language activities, especially education, culture and to S4C, the Welsh language television service.

At present there is a widely based demand for greater 'democratisation' of the Welsh Office and the creation of a directly elected parliament for Wales. In response the government has proposed the creation of an economic council, probably an advisory body appointed by the Secretary of State.

Welsh language education

During the past 50 years there has

Continued page 2



Korrika: a report on this year's Korrika, the week-long mass demonstration of support for the Basque language, appears on page 3.

New Welsh Language Bill (Contd.)

been substantial growth in Welsh medium education, both in traditional community schools of the Welsh speaking 'heartland' of the west and north, and in designated Welsh medium (actually bilingual) schools throughout Wales. Currently almost 25% of primary pupils receive their education on a bilingual basis.

Since the introduction of a national curriculum in 1988, Welsh has also been given the status of a 'core' subject in such schools, while it has also been made a compulsory subject in other schools at primary and secondary level.

Legal status

At present, the main act dealing with the status of the language is the modest Welsh Language Act of 1967 which had very limited objectives. It gave witnesses in court proceedings in Wales the right to give their evidence in Welsh, it gave ministers the power to prescribe Welsh versions of statutory forms and it declared that the Welsh versions of such forms should have equal status with the English versions.

During the 1980s Wales experienced a vigorous campaign for a stronger Language Act which would embrace the private as well as public sectors. The campaign was inaugurated by the Welsh Language Society, but within the last few years it has gathered support among those of more moderate opinions, resulting in the drafting of at least three detailed versions of language Bills – by the Plaid Cymru MP, Dafydd Wigley, by the Labour peer, Lord Gwilym Prys Davies, and by the government appointed Welsh Language Board itself.

However, all three of these were rejected by the government and the measure outlined below bears no similarity to any one of them.

THE WELSH LANGUAGE BILL 1993

Basic principles

The draft Bill makes "new provisions to promote and facilitate the language in Wales, in particular in the conduct of public business and the administration of justice, on a basis of equality" with the English language.

It defines this equality as being that which is appropriate within the circumstances and "reasonably practicable". Ultimately it would be necessary to ask a court to decide on the interpretation of 'equality'.

Welsh Language Board

In a less controversial mode, the Bill intends to upgrade the existing Welsh Language Board into a permanent, statutory body, with more staff, extended powers and a marginally greater budget.

The new Board's aim would be to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language. In order to achieve this it would persuade official bodies to prepare 'schemes' to promote the language as required by the Bill, and investigate complaints arising from the implementation of such schemes.

It would also advise the Secretary of State on language matters. He would be responsible for the Board and appoint all its members, up to 15 in number.

The Board would be empowered to provide grants, loans or guarantees to Welsh language bodies or projects, probably taking over such existing functions from the Welsh Office.

The scope of the 'schemes'

The intention of a scheme would be to demonstrate how an organisation could provide services for Welsh speakers.

Organisations in Wales to which this proposal would apply include:

- local authorities
- police and fire authorities
- health authorities and trusts
- the new education funding councils
- school and college governing bodies

It has been indicated that government agencies such as those responsible for taxation or social security would not be covered by the Bill.

Although government departments are similarly excluded from the proposed legislation, it is expected that they would be required to prepare schemes like other public bodies.

Administering the 'schemes'

First the proposed Board would have to draw up guidelines on the structure and content of such schemes. These guidelines would need the approval of the Secretary of State as well as both Houses of Parliament.

Then every public body mentioned above, as well as any other body or person designated by the Secretary of State for Wales would receive notification from the Board that they were required to prepare a scheme. A date for completion of each scheme would be given, but the public body could appeal against that date. The Secretary of State would arbitrate in any disputes arising.

Following notification of the need for a scheme, a public body would need to draw up a timetable and plan after consulting with Welsh speakers as laid down in the Board's guidelines. In the event of a body failing to keep to the timetable or guidelines, the Secretary of State would have the power to impose conditions either on a public body, or the Welsh Language Board itself.

In the event of a change in the circumstances of a public body, the Bill includes procedures for updating a scheme.

If a member of the public were to complain that a body had failed to implement a scheme, the Bill provides for the Language Board to hold an enquiry, and forward a report to the Secretary of State who could ultimately serve a court order on the public body in question.

Other aspects of the Bill

It proposes to delete certain anti-Welsh clauses of the Acts of Union dating from the 16th century and re-enact more recent legislation, conforming the right to use Welsh in courts of law in Wales, provided that due notice has been given in advance.

It also states that when a public document in the Welsh language has been approved by the Minister in question, its contents carry equal weight to the English language version.

WELSH SPEAKERS' REACTIONS

Weaknesses and omissions

There is no general clause which guarantees an individual the right to use the Welsh language with any public body.

The Bill does not give full, 'official' status to Welsh.

It does not allow a Welsh speaker to demand a bilingual jury in a court of law.

Nowhere does this Bill or any other legislation give the right to a parent to demand Welsh medium education for a child.

There is no reference to businesses, large or small, in the Bill, and it also fails to embrace recently privatised utilities and certain government agencies. Its definition of the public sector is very narrow.

The success of the Welsh language 'schemes' which are such a fundamental feature of the legislation ultimately depends on the interpretation of the term 'reasonably practicable' by the Secretary of State, who is given wide ranging powers to resolve disputes within the Bill.

There is no clause in the Bill which amends or clarifies race relations legislation to allow employers to advertise for staff who are Welsh speakers.

The Bill makes it clear that no great increase in public spending is envisaged on behalf of the language, no new money being available for the promotion or marketing of the language among those not able to speak it.

In spite of years of campaigning, the Bill does not offer any broad vision of the future contribution of the language to Welsh culture and society.

Disappointment

On the whole there is a feeling of profound disappointment, that after years of protesting, campaigning, debating and drafting the proposed Bill offers so little, and is confined to so few aspects of the lives of Welsh speakers. This is especially true among those who had put in so much time and effort in drafting detailed versions of more comprehensive legislation.

At one end of the opinion spectrum is the Welsh Language Society whose members have made the campaign for a strong Act the centre plank of their activities throughout the latter years of the 1980s. It is hardly surprising that they have organised a series of rallies to publicise their 'rejection' of the Bill.

The National Language Forum, an association which is broadly representative of Welsh language and cultural organisations has also expressed its disappointment in strong terms. Of its 28 member organisations, 26 have rejected the Bill, "more in sorrow than in anger", in the words of Lord Morris, a former University of Wales principal, during the opening debate in the House of Lords.

Some individuals and organisations have been encouraged by the government's declaration that they expect the Bill to be 'improved' during its passage through Parliament and have decided to take a more pragmatic approach. They allege that David Hunt, the Secretary of State for Wales, opted for a measure which could be pushed through Westminster without too much effort from within, or protest from without.

It is likely, therefore, that such people will be privately working on improvements to the measure while at the same time publicly criticising its shortcomings.

However, it is hardly likely that any 'improvements' to the Bill as it stands will placate the enthusiasts within the Welsh Language Society. Their hopes have been dashed, and unless there is a radical rethink on the part of the government, the days of protest are likely to continue.

Allan Wynne Jones

KORRIKA 1993

Korrika, a big relay race organised by AEK, the federation of Basque language courses for adults, has two objectives: to reinforce the attachment people in the Basque Country have for their language and to collect essential funds for AEK's work.

Since the first Korrika was held in 1980 in Bilbao it has become the world's largest gathering in support of the Basque language.

For nine days and nine nights this huge relay race covers over 2,000 kilometers of the Basque Country's roads and the thousands of people of varying physical shape and age who participate reflect the importance of what is at stake when safeguarding and redeveloping Euskara.

Today, one can say that Korrika has become a point of reference and a symbol throughout the whole of the Basque Country. Some 600,000 participated in the last Korrika and several thousand in the shape of local committees were responsible for all of the organisation. Moreover, Korrika is the occasion for many towns, areas and villages to organise festivals and other cultural activities.

Korrika offers everybody the opportunity to participate: associations, personalities, local firms, sports clubs, local authorities, the media... all have a place in the great celebration of Euskara.

Who doesn't like this country, its surroundings and its people? And in particular its language, Euskara, shaped by many centuries, witness of our history, an instrument of our relationship with, and perception of, the world around us?

Korrika is most definitely the happy and moving expression of this attachment. Those who contribute materially and physically in their thousands do so because they want the language "to live its life to the full" as described by Extepare over 450 years ago.

If much has been done there still remains a lot more to be done. Luckily there is an increasing number of us united in our efforts towards this aim. The 8th Korrika reaffirms that Euskara passes no one by and needs the goodwill of everybody.

This year once again everyone will be able to taste the emotion and the pleasure of participating in this huge celebration.

Pernando Barrena

Linking the Regions

Report on a study visit to Brittany

With the help of EuroEd Wales, contact was made with M. Hervé Kerrain, of the STUMDI organisation, an organisation which provides Breton language courses for adults. He expressed considerable interest in the establishment of a link between STUMDI and the Faculty of Education at Gwent College of Higher Education, Carleon, and the above visit was carried out in order to establish possible areas of cooperation, including short student/staff exchanges, the exchange of teaching materials and the development of joint curricula. The visit was funded by grants provided by the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges and the British Council, Paris.

An initial meeting with Patrick Merien, Director, and Hervé Kerrain, Director (Education) of STUMDI, established the background of the organisation. Privately funded (82% from clients, especially hospitals, banks and other local commercial organisations, as well as individuals, 18% from local authorities), it is an offshoot of DIWAN ('bud' or 'sprout' in Breton), which from 1977 has been setting up a private Breton language school system, now numbering 30 nursery, 23 primary and 3 secondary schools for a total of 700 pupils. STUMDI was established in 1985, essentially to provide teachers for the DIWAN schools, mainly through a programme of one week intensive courses. It had been preceded by AN HERE in 1981, which publishes books for children in Breton, and followed by TREIN, which provides Breton translations of suitable texts for the schools. Together with the publishers of a Breton newspaper, STUMDI and TREIN constitute ENSAVADUR BREIZH, the Breton Cultural Institute.

The DIWAN schools are growing by 20% a year, from small initial numbers, and now cater for 2-6 year olds (SKOL VAMM), 6-11 year olds (SKOL KENTAN DEREZ), and 11-15 year olds (SKOL EIL DEREZ). At the moment, pupils then have to transfer to French medium state or private schools up to the age of 18, but DIWAN intends to build up a complete Breton medium education system – *with no state funding*. This includes teacher training: STUMDI trains teachers in the Breton language, while DIWAN provides the pedagogic element of teacher training. The organisation also intends to develop research activities, a start having already been made on the compilation of the first monolingual Breton learners' dictionary, a library of Breton texts and 'cultural tourism' activities.

Apart from the initial meeting at the new ENSAVADUR BREIZH centre in Commana, still undergoing conversion from a telecommunications centre, visits were made to a nearby DIWAN school for 2-11 year olds; the TREIN translation centre in Landerneau, where meetings were held with the translator Neil Baker (from Birmingham) and Kristina Jegou, responsible for the DIWAN teacher training programme; the AN HERE offices near Brest, where information on the compilation of the new dictionary was provided by Iwan Kadored, and where some of the 130 children's books published by the centre were seen; and the nearby DIWAN College, which is linked to the Gwent Welsh secondary school, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, Trevethin. Here, an English class of ten 15 year olds was observed, taught by a Cornish teacher with a degree in English and Welsh; Biology and History are taught through English, the children also have French lessons and either German or Spanish, and can join a Welsh Club as one of their extra curricular activities. Because of the distances travelled by some of the 88 pupils the school is residential.

A sample of Welsh teaching materials for B.Ed students, and a *Welsh in the National Curriculum* file were donated to STUMDI, and further copies of both were promised to AN HERE and the DIWAN translator, both of whom expressed an interest; in return, a large sample of teaching and other curricular materials, with further documentation on DIWAN and STUMDI activities, were provided for Welsh staff at Caerleon.

As a result of the visit it is proposed that:

(a) an application be made to ERASMUS for an intensive study programme to be coordinated by Gwent College, involving STUMDI and, if possible, the Frisian Department at Hogeschool Leeuwarden (since a three-way link is more likely to receive ERASMUS support); preliminary enquiries have shown that Leeuwarden is interested in joining such a programme, and in order to further this, the Faculty Coordinator of European links should visit Leeuwarden before October 1993, enabling an application for support for the first exchanges in 1994-95 to be made before the October 31st deadline;

(b) the new Welsh main area course should incorporate a module on the Breton language and culture, and this, together with the Breton exchange programme should be publicised for recruitment purposes;

(c) staff appointed to teach on the new Welsh course should be given the opportunity to undertake study visits to Brittany in order to teach Welsh and to learn Breton, with reciprocal arrangements for visiting Breton staff; EC funding should be sought for this staff exchange.

Barry Johnson, Kris Sobol & Sue Jones

Contact Bulletin

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TUTTI FUTTI

Tutti Futti, uncommon noun, masculine plural, meaning completely screwed up, refers to a rock group formed in 1985 from the convergence of amateur and professional musicians living in the Moselle region of France. The only rock group in France to sing in Frankish (Luxembourgish), a language spoken by hundreds and thousands in the heart of Europe, this group promotes lesser used languages through rock music. Consisting of five musicians and vocalists: Jo Nousse (vocals), Jean-Marc Becker (drums) Hervé Mangin (saxaphone), Jean-Luc Nadolski (bass) and Pat Ben Bachir (guitars), TUTTU FUTTI takes its audience on a voyage through the European Tower of Babel, a fusion of languages and rock bursting out into French, Luxembourgish, Italian, Welsh, Greek, German, Basque, English and Arabic.

Association of Rock and the Regions

Remaining true to their strong loyalty to lesser used languages the group was responsible for the setting up last December of an association to promote regional, minorised or lesser used languages through the medium of rock music. The association aims to promote and organise concerts, tours and exchanges involving rock bands which sing in a lesser used language. This is being achieved through the establishment of a network of various lesser used language rock groups coordinated by the association which prepares and distributes publicity material on the various bands, as well as encouraging other bands to begin singing in regional languages. The *Association Réseau Rock et Régions* is now calling on rock groups, linguistic movements and record companies involved with lesser used languages to make contact with the Association with a view to future cooperation. According to Jo Nousse, lead vocalist with TUTTI FUTTI and spokesperson for the Association Réseau Rock et Régions "rock music in lesser used languages is a very important aspect of creating awareness among the younger generation and a fantastic way to develop new networks supporting these languages".

Further information from: Association Réseau Rock et Régions, 17 rue de la Perdrix, F-57100 Thionville, France. Tel: +33.82.544395. D.B.

Occitan/Catalan/ Esperanto – Dictionary of 1000 words

Diccionari de mila mots. Los mila mots occitans mai importants ambe la traduccion en catalan e esperanto. (Thousand word vocabulary. The thousand most common Occitan words with Catalan and Esperanto translations) Jacme Taupiac. Tolosa: Collègi d'Occitania, 1992. 495pp. 22cm. 37.80 NL gl.

Reviewed in the June 1993 issue of *Esperanto* by professor Pierre Janton, University of Clermont-Ferrand, this publication contains the thousand words most commonly used in Occitan, enough to understand 80% of a normal text. The Occitan language, presented by the author in Esperanto and Occitan introductions, was once one of the pillars of Western European civilisation. Despite long and drastic suppression, it survives in several varieties in southern France.

The fact that the author chooses to translate each word into Esperanto (in addition to Catalan) highlights the problems faced by these languages, which are parallel but not entirely similar. The polite hypocrisy which characterises the French authorities in their silent treatment of Esperanto contrasts with their active efforts to eradicate "regional" languages. Unless users of these languages make common cause the seeds of cultural diversity will wither in a future Europe. The threat of such a Europe becoming reality should unite Occitans and Esperantists in resolute opposition.

Problems of unity and dialect in Occitan are referred to in the foreword. A referential norm may be created from several dialects, but it inevitably shows a certain degree of artificiality. However, a reference model helps enormously to avoid the kind of centrifugal tendencies which can destroy a language. *Diccionari de mila mots* reflects this model and thus provides a key to other varieties of Occitan.

Occitan's survival is guaranteed by its rich literature. In this area its path again crosses that of Esperanto. Zamenhof foresaw the danger that a language bereft of a unifying literary model might eventually split into mutually incomprehensible dialects. This further similarity underlines a possible area of common action. The ideas of defenders of lesser used languages and Esperantists are not always in perfect harmony. Jacme Taupiac, an expert in Occitan and a competent Esperantist, well understands their need for each other. He draws the attention of the worldwide Esperanto community to Occitan, whilst to Occitan speakers he shows how to protect their language through a global vision independent of the languages of domination, which have historically done so much damage to the linguistic diversity of Europe.

Seán Ó Riain

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Symposium on Demolinguistics
15-16 November 1993
Tortosa (Catalonia)

Organised in cooperation with 'Grup Català de Sociolingüistica', "el Centre d'Estudi Demogràfics" of the University of Barcelona and the Catalan Institute of Statistics of the Department of Finance and Economics in the Generalitat of Catalonia, this symposium will concentrate on linguistic data and census results and how they give an indication, clear or otherwise of the language situation on the ground. Further information from: Marc Lepêtre i Alemany, Generalitat de Catalunya, Dept. de Cultura, cerrer de Mallorca 272, 1r, E-08037 Barcelona.

IV International Congress on the Galego-Portuguese Language
28 October – 1 November 1993
Galicia

Aims of this congress will be to work with others in analysing, clarifying and questioning the linguistic situation in Galicia, through the exchange of current ideas on language planning, and an analysis of all non-linguistic factors which prevent the normalisation of this language. It is also intended to establish scientific, cultural and pedagogical interexchanges with other lesser language regions and bodies. Further information from: IV Congresso Internacional de Língua Galego-Portuguesa na Galizia, Apartado dos Correios 453, E-32080 Ourense, Galiza.

The Problems of the New Europe
13 September – 1 October 1993
Gorizia, Italy

An international summer school organised by the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia. Themes of the Congress will be broken down into the following subjects: Social change in Europe, the organisations of services after the crisis of the welfare state and 'real paternalism', and trade between Eastern and Western Europe. Further information from Dr Ornella Urpis, ISIG, via Mazzini 13, I34170 Gorizia, Italy.

Modern Conception of Foreign Language Teaching
18-20 October 1993
Lipetsk, Russia

Organised by the International Association for Collaborative Contributions to Language Learning in cooperation with the Research Centre for Communicative Teaching of Foreign Languages and Cross-Cultural Education, the main problems to be discussed here include: working out of a common ground regarding different approaches to foreign language teaching and the elaboration of conceptual-terminological vocabulary in order to attain mutual understanding in FLT Methodology. Further information from: Prof. E.I. Passov, Centre KMOIK, Lenin str. 42, 398020 Lipetsk, Russia.

Linguistic Frontiers
26-28 August 1993
Ascona Centre Monte Verità, Italy

This, the second Ascona conference on plurilinguism, will examine language borders, especially those in Switzerland, and will discuss themes such as Language Borders: Geographical or Psychological? To Think is to Cross Borders! Further information can be obtained from: Osservatorio linguistico della Svizzera italiana, Biblioteca cantonale, via Cappuccini 12, Ch-6600 Locarno, Switzerland.

Transfrontier Languages of Oil (Langues d'Oïl transfrontalières)
30-31 October 1993
Nivelles, Belgium

A colloquium concentrating on the Romance languages and dialects of Wallonia, France, Switzerland (Jurasian), Lorraine, Normandy and Picardy. For further information contact: MIC Romania, Rue de Namur 600, B6200 Chatelet, Belgium.

4th Conference of the International Association of Galician Studies
26-28 September 1994
Oxford, England

According to the Centre for Galician Studies in Oxford, England, research on Galicia, its language, history and literature, has been increasing on an international level in recent years. In an effort to continue and strengthen this trend the Galician government set up lectureships and cultural centres outside of Galicia and one of these centres, the Centre of Galician Studies in Oxford is organising the above conference. The conference will provide a forum for all those involved in Galician to come together and discuss the present state and future prospects of Galicia and its language, culture, history and literature. Conference organisers are now calling for papers. For further information contact: John Rutherford, Director, Centro de Estudios Galegos, The Queen's College, Oxford OX1 4AW, England.

Diarmaid Breathnach

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Citizenship 2000, the lesser used languages of Europe

Researched by Ricarda Jenniges (Germanophone Community of Belgium) and edited by Dr Medwin Hughes (University of Wales), this publication is a description of Citizenship 2000, a joint project between the Welsh Department of the University of Wales and the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. The aim of this project is to introduce a European dimension into education and teacher training in addition to developing guidelines for a school programme which would encourage active citizenship throughout the lesser used language regions. Chapters include a general appraisal of the lesser used languages of the EC, citizenship, intercultural teaching, advantages of multilingualism and bilingualism, and the promotion of a European conscience through languages, history, civic studies and citizenship. It is published in French and English by University of Wales, Cardiff, Wales. 147 pages. ISBN 1-85644-237-3.

BBC agus an Ghaeilge/ BBC and the Irish language –

Aodán Mac Póilín and Liam Andrews

A 40 page bilingual booklet highlighting the BBC's almost total neglect of broadcasting in the Irish language in spite of the fact that it broadcasts programmes in Welsh and Scottish Gaelic both on radio and on television. Arguments are given why it should pay more attention to the Irish speakers of Northern Ireland especially within the context of existing television and radio services in Scottish Gaelic and Welsh. Published by Iontaobhas Uladh, Room 202, Fountain House, 19 Donegall Place, Belfast BT1 5AB, Northen Ireland.

L'Arvista dl'Academia –

B. Villata

200 pages divided into five chapters on aspects of Piemontese vocabulary with equivalent words in Spanish, French and English. The final chapter consists of a short story in Italian and Piemontese. Further information and copies available from: le Bouquin International, 375 Boulevard Cartier, Laval P.Q., H7N 2K8 Canada. ISBN 2-9802328-4-X.

Die Nordfriesen, kleines Volk in Schleswig Holstein

– Thomas Steenson

A 40 page booklet on the language of NorthFriesian, its history, geography, and place in Schleswig Holstein society and a description of institutions and various bodies involved with it. Copies and further information available from Verlag Nordfriisk Instituut, Süderstraße 30, D-W-2257 Bräist/ Bredstedt. Germany. ISBN 3-88007-198-5.

L Jeuch al Palé/ Le Jüch al Palê –

Forni Marco and Mishi Giovanni

Everything you wanted to know about soccer and all the terminology that goes with it is to be found in this colourful bilingual (Gherdëina/Badiot) booklet. It contains 9 pages of football terms in German, Italian, Gherdëina and Badiot. Further information available from Istitut Ladin "Micurà de Rü", San Martin de Tor, ITALY.

The Welsh Language –

Janet Davies

Beginning with a personal perspective from the author this book provides the reader with a concise guide to the Welsh language, from its origins to the present day and its place within the other lesser used languages of Europe. Maps, illustrations and photographs help inform the reader of all aspects of this Celtic language and those who speak it. It also includes a chapter on the phonetics and pronunciation of the languages in addition to its linguistic relationship with the other Celtic languages. 121 Pages. ISBN 0-7083-1211-X. Published by University of Wales Press, 6 Gwennyth Street, Cathays, Cardiff, CF2 4YD, Wales.

Burgenländische Kroaten

As reported in CB Vol. 9, No. 3, this, the final booklet (no. 5) of a series on the minorities of Austria, has just been published by the Centre of Austrian Ethnical Groups. Previous booklets covered the Slovenes, Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians. This booklet of 57 pages describes the history and present situation of Austria's largest ethnic minority: the Croats of Burgenland. It includes statistics on the number of speakers from 1910 to 1991 as well as this community's position within Austrian legislation. Other topics included are education, media, relationship with the churches, voting patterns amongst the Croatian community, the economic situation, culture, and Croatian organisations in Austria. Copies and further information available from: Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum, Teinfaltstraße 4, A-1010 Vienna, Austria.

Le Provencal: Essai de description sociolinguistique et différentielle –

Philippe Blanchet.

A 224 page scientific description of Provencal from many angles: sociolinguistic, anthropological, historical, etc. ISBN: 90-6831-428-9. Distributed in France by VRIN, 6 place de la Sorbonne, F-75005 Paris.

Nos langues et l'Unité de l'Europe. Actes des Colloques de Fleury (Normandie) et Maiano (Prouvènço) –

Philippe Blanchet.

A collection of articles by various writers on the languages of Europe and the socio-political problems arising therefrom. ISBN: 90-6831-439-4. Distributed in France by VRIN, 6 place de la Sorbonne, F-75005 Paris.

L'Histoire chronologique des pays celtiques – Jakez Gaucher.

400 pages describing all six Celtic

NEW PUBLICATIONS

countries and a chronology of their histories from the VIII Century BC to the present (1987). All entries appear in columnar order, each counrty side by side. Other contributors to this work include some well known personalities in the lesser used language movement: Alan Stivell, Alan Heusaff, Gwynfor Evans, Pierre Le Moine. Further information from: Jakez Gaucher, 3 avenue Anne de Bretagne, F-44350 Guérande, Britanny.

Ethnos, Volume 42: Fundamental Rights of Ethnic Groups in Europe.

The draft of an additional protocol to the European Convention of Human Rights, presented to the Council of Europe by the FUEN, is an alternative supplement to the drafts worked out by the governmental side. The main purpose of the draft is to confront the states, whose proposals have up to now dominated this issue, with the ideas and opinions of the ethnic groups in the hope of establishing a fruitful dialogue between the two directly interested parties. 232 pages. Published by Wilhelm Braumüller, Servitengasse 5, A-1092 Wien, Austria. ISBN: 3-7003-0989-9.

The Tragedy o Macbeth – David Purves.

Shakespeare's Macbeth in Scots. An attempt to demonstrate that the Scots language has the resources to deal with tragic drama at a high level. Published by Rob Roy Press, Sheila McGregor, 8 Greenhill Place, Edinburgh EH10 4BR. ISBN 1-85832-00-3.

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CONTACT BULLETIN

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1 ECU

The Sorbs in Brussels

Lusatia and the Sorbs – the Slavic East of the EC was the title of the first ever Sorb exhibition, organised by the European Bureau's Brussels Information Centre and Mr. Stanislaw Tilich, observer member of the European Parliament and its Intergroup for Minority Languages. The first in a series of cultural events with the aim of bringing our languages and cultures to a wider audience, the exhibition concentrated mainly on Czech-Lusatian cultural relations and was organised within the framework of a public relations training course run by the "Gesellschaft zur Förderung eines Sorbischen Kultur- und Informationszentrums in Berlin e.V. (SKI)".

Dr Günter Ermisch, Delegate and Undersecretary for Federal and European Affairs in Saxony, opened the exhibition and reminded those present how "the Sorbs had been ruled by Polish, Prussian, Saxon, Hungarian and Czech sovereigns.

Lusatian art was represented by contemporary Sorb sculptor, Rjenc Metod-Lawrjenc, who, for five days, relocated his Berlin studio in Brussels. The exhibition encompassed on the one hand works of art relating to Czech-Lusatian cultural relations – valuable original paintings on glass, wood engravings, pen-and-ink drawings (partly in colour), photographic art and illustration, copies of oil paintings and pictures of sculptures – and on the other hand works by the sculptor displayed in an open studio. Visitors were able to talk to the artist, to learn about his working method, and handle his tools. In this way, figurative art in our exhibition was directly linked with history, in which the Lusatian Sorbs have earned a worthy place thanks to two Baroque groups of figures by the Wittichenau sculptor Miklaws Jakula on the Charles Bridge in Prague.

On this point, Dr Günter Ermisch said: "When the Sorb Nikolaus Jakubitza was translating Luther's New Testament into Sorb in 1548, he used existing Czech translations as an aid. In this exhibition you will find a wealth of evidence of the closeness and the fruitfulness of relations between Sorbs and Czechs."

The exhibition was also relevant to the Czech Republic's bid for membership of the European Union. Vaclav Klaus, for one, saw the emerging European regions as a key to a partnership between the two parts of the Continent. "Why not draw on the valuable experiences of the Sorbs as an aid to mutual understanding

Continued Page 4

The scupltor, Rjenc Metod-Lawrjenc, working on the Brussels exhibition (Silvia Carrel).

New Welsh Language Board

These are exciting times for the Welsh language. A new Welsh Language Act will become law and a statutory Welsh Language Board will be established in the New Year to implement the new legislation. (see CB 10.2)

The present Welsh Language Board is a small advisory body. It was set up by the UK government in July 1988, and has a permanent staff of only six people. It is primarily concerned with assisting and advising on the use and promotion of Welsh in all areas of public life (except education). Our main achievement, without doubt has been to persuade government to legislate to protect the right of Welsh speakers and to promote the language generally.

So what will the new Welsh Language Act achieve and what will the statutory Welsh Language Board do? First and foremost, the Act establishes the new Board, with the function of 'promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh Language'. This wording is deliberately vague. As the government explained during the passage of the Welsh Language Bill through Parliament:

"The Bill does not define the promotional function in great detail, because it will be for the Board to decide how the functions should be exercised. The Board should establish itself as an acknowledged centre of excellence and expertise on all matters to do with the language, and I believe that it must do so independent of day-to-day interference of Government, whichever Government may be in power."

The new Board's function will therefore be an all-embracing one. It will extend to Welsh language education and it will also extend into the private sector.

And so far as the private sector is concerned, few people believe that much that is positive can be achieved through compulsion. Advice and encouragement present the sensible way forward for promoting the greater use of Welsh in this sector.

But the new Board will certainly need a comprehensive strategy for the private sector in addition to voluntary guidelines, so that proper priorities may be established at the outset. For example, it will be more important that further progress be achieved in those areas of the private sector which have daily contact with large numbers of the public, such as banks and building societies, than in those areas where contact with the general public is minimal.

When we turn to the public sector, we find that the Welsh Language is much more specific. The statutory board will provide, it says, 'for the preparation by public bodies of schemes giving effect to the principle that in the conduct of public business and the administration of justice in Wales the English and Welsh languages should be treated on a basis of equality'. In other words, every public body, whether it is based in Wales or not, which provides a service to the people of Wales will have to draw up a scheme to meet the needs and aspirations of its Welsh speaking customers. These schemes will be firmly founded on the principle that Welsh and English should be treated on a basis of equality. Moreover, they may not be haphazardly drawn. They will have to be soundly based on guidelines drawn up beforehand by the statutory Welsh Language Board and agreed by Parliament.

There will be no room for complacency and negative attitudes, which in the past have plagued public debate about the Welsh language in Wales. We must seize the opportunity; we may not get a better chance. And above all, the statutory board must be judged by its results.

The 1991 Census has already shown that the decline in the numbers of Welsh speakers in Wales has been stemmed. And Welsh has finally been established in our schools as a core subject within the National Curriculum. A more recent survey has shown the percentage of young people who speak Welsh has grown to nearly one-third, compared with 21.5% of the total population which is Welsh speaking. This is the background against which the statutory Welsh Language Board will begin its work. Exciting times indeed!

John Walter Jones
Welsh Language Board

THE SOUND OF EUROPE
THE SOUND OF EUROPE
THE SOUND OF EUROPE

Pictured left to right: Helen Ó Murchú, President of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Hwyel Ceri Jones, Acting Director General DGV (Employment, Industrial Relations, Training, and Youth) Commission of European Communities and Siân Wyn Siencyn, author of "The Sound of Europe". (see page 3)

New Bureau Publications

Select Bibliography on lesser used languages in the European Community

Price: 6 ECU

This **Select Bibliography** is a first attempt on the part of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages at collecting basic references on the various autochthonous regional or minority languages of the EC in Europe.

Wolfgang Jenniges, documentalist at the European Bureau's Brussels Information Centre and compiler of the bibliography – points out that "this is not a specialised bibliography: it is intended for use by the general public. It aims to provide the reader with a current and reasonably comprehensive overview of works published in the last fifteen years."

The references are placed in some thematic categories, such as general texts, administrative authorities and public services, justice, education, media, culture and history, economic and social life, and transfrontier contacts. The languages are grouped per linguistic families – Romance, Celtic, Germanic, Slavic, and other – and are presented in alphabetic order.

The Sound of Europe

Living Languages Series

Price: 3 ECU ISBN 90-74851-01-0

The Sound of Europe is the first in the Living Languages Series of publications by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. It is initially published simultaneously in English and French with plans for publishing in other EC languages in the near future.

The Sound of Europe was written by Siân Wyn Siencyn – an authority on Welsh and nursery education – in collaboration with Anna Vari Chapalain, a journalist involved with Diwan, the Breton language education movement. The publication provides a lively and colourful introduction to the diverse plurilingualism of Europe.

The Sound of Europe emphasises the intellectual and developmental advantages of young bilingual children. Research shows that a child's ability to separate sound and meaning, object and concept, is much more advanced at an earlier age in bilingual children.

There are different reasons for choosing bilingualism through education: economic, cultural and ecological. But there is another reason which is also a very powerful one. The educational and intellectual advantages that children can have over their monolingual contemporaries.

According to Helen Ó Murchú, President of the European Bureau, "after home, education is probably the most important domain for transmission of language, tradition, culture and values. The lesser used language communities have always recognised this fact. We have a long experience in this area of bilingual education. We are happy to extend our knowledge and experience to a wider audience by the publication of The Sound of Europe."

Unity in Diversity

European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages General Brochure

Unity in Diversity – published in four languages, English, French, German and Italian – is the new general brochure of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

It provides an overall picture of the languages and cultures of the European Community, where there are more than 40 autochthonous languages in everyday use.

While the degree of acceptance, support, status and usage attained by Europe's lesser used languages varies greatly, they share some common characteristics. Their use tends to be restricted, marginalised or compartmentalised in comparison to other languages which occupy the whole range of public domains.

Unity in Diversity gives some basic information about the activity of European institutions in favour of lesser used languages in the last decade. From the Arfé Resolution voted by the European Parliament in 1981 to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages agreed by the Council in Europe in 1992, it relates all the major steps and the most important dates to remember.

In 1992, the Bureau celebrated its first 10 years. Ten candles on a cake made from the richness and variety of European cultures: on the top the cherry, the European Bureau, coordinating all the various activities in favour of the linguistic communities and collecting information and experiences for a common purpose: the development of lesser used languages.

Silvia Carrel

Mini-Guide to the Lesser Used Languages of the EC

Price: 5 ECU

Researched and written by Ricarda Jenniges, this publication is a clear and concise guide to the EU's autochthonous lesser used languages. Published back to back in French and English, one finds here succint informationon over 30 EU lesser used languages spoken throughout 11 EU Member States. Of the 344 million citizens in the EU, close on 50 million – over one in seven – speak a language other than the main, official language of the member state in which they live. These are an integral part of our cultural heritage. They include some of the oldest languages in the western world and many possess rich cultural, literary and academic traditions.A small description is provided on the region where it is spoken, the amount of speakers and further information under the headings of: status, public services, education, media, and miscellaneous. The answers to frequent questions such as what minority languages are official languages of member states but not of the EU? How many people speak Basque? Where is German a minority indigenous language? etc. are to be found in this guide of 52 pages. In his introduction to the Guide, Secretary General of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Dónall Ó Riagáin, writes:

"This Mini-Guide attempts to offer a thumbnail sketch of lesser used language communities in the EC. An impossible task in many respects but one which we felt worth undertaking! 'Mini' it may be, but let's hope its usefulness will be 'maxi'".

Also now available: "Annual Report on the Activities of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages". An account of the work and achievements of the Bureau, including sections on the Dublin Head Office, the Brussels Information Centre, Member State Committees, Mercator Network, Children's Publishing Secretariat and External Relations.

All the above Bureau publications can be purchased from the European Bureau Information Cemtre (address on back page).

FUTURE EVENTS

The Meaning of Cultural and National Identity: Wales a case study. International seminar no. 9377: 27 February – 10 March 1994. Organised by the British Council this is intended to be a forum for examination of the historical and contemporary themes of culture and identity. The questions being addressed by the seminar are particularly relevant at a time of rapid national and regional change in parts of Europe. Further information available from: Edward David, Director British Council Wales, 28 Park Place, Cardiff CF1 3QE, Wales. Tel: +44.222.397346.

2nd International Conference of Language Awareness hosted by the International Education Centre, College of Saint Mark and Saint John, Plymouth, United Kingdom from 11-14 April 1994. Papers of not more than 30 minutes duration are now being sought, dealing with fields, levels and evaluation of language awareness. Proposals for papers dealing with themes other than the above will be considered also. Further information from: Roy Bolitho and Tony Wright, INTEC, College of St. Mark and St. John, Derriford Road, Plymouth PL6 8BH. Tel: +44.752.777188 ext. 3176/3146. Fax: +44.752.761102.

Music and other kinds of art as a way for ethnic minorities to express their own identity – YEN Seminar, 26 March to 1 April 1994, Grou, Friesland, Netherlands. The seminar will bring togther representatives of youth organisations of about twenty language minorities. Most of the youth organisations present will be members of the Youth of European Nationalities who will concentrate on policies encouraging the use of minority languages by composing and making music, in addition to workshops on art, drama, poetry and architecture. For further information please contact: Edwer Janse, FYK, De Slinke 3, NL-9011 WV Jirnsum, Netherlands. Tel: +31.5660.2110.

Summer School on Code Switching
14-17 September 1994
A follow-up to a series of meetings on Code-Switching and Language Contact organised by the European Science Foundation. For further information contact: Durk Gorter, Fryske Akademy, Doelstrjitte 8, Netherlands. Tel: +31.58131414. Fax: +31.58131409.

III Festival Rock & Regions
Rock music in lesser used languages to be held at the Casino Municipale, Thionville, France, 15 January 1994. Further details from: Réseau Rock et Régions, 17 rue de la Perdric, F-57100 Thionville, France.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Euskararen Berripapera – a new bulletin published monthly in Spanish and Basque by the Secretariat for Language Policy (Basque Country) with the aim of stimulating relations between those with an interest in the Basque language. It will appear twice a year in English. Those wishing to receive this bulletin free of charge need only write to: Secretaria General de Política Lingüística, Duque de Wellington 2, E-01011 Vitoria-Gasteiz (Alava), Spain.

Dictionnaire Français–Provençal/ Diciounàri Francès-Provençau – Compiled by Jules Coupier: a large French-Provençal dictionary published in two volumes of over 1,200 pages and 60,000 entries. Price 450FF. Further information available from: Dictionnaire Français-Provençal, 9 rue de la Gorge, F-13007 Marseille. Tel: +33.91523938.

L'Europe des Ethnies – Guy Heraud: A 209 page collection of monographs presenting minority linguistic groups (and nations without states) on the European continent. It also describes peaceful means for such minorities to achieve independance and to survive in harmony with other linguistic groups within the context of a united Europe. Price 740BF. ISBN 2-8027-0507-3.

Diccionari de mila mots – Jacme Taupiac. Occitan/Catalan/Esperanto dictionary. Available from: Jacme Taupiac, Sant Marçal, F-82000 Montalban. Price: 121FF (including post and packing). (see CB 10.2)

The Sorbs in Brussels (contd.)

across borders?" Dr Günter Ermisch asked his audience in Brussels. "This exhibition reveals a treasure which enriches not only the Federal Republic of Germany bu also the European Community".

The symbolic bridge which this exhibition built between conscious citizens of the EU and their neighbours is echoed in a monument to Czech-Lusatian cultural relations which spans the river Spree in the town of Obergurig.

The programme also included a press conference, the opening of an exhibition by representatives of political and cultural life in the EU, the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, and a science seminar. The idea of the intermediary role of the Sorbs as one of the few Slavic ethnic groups in the European Union cultural area in Central Europe was further underlined. It was agreed that the preparation and implementation of this function must be debated and gradually developed for every other minority in its own way. This Lusatian initiative was a happy confirmation of the treaties of friendship and good neighbourliness between Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The exhibition was attended by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic and the Cultural Attaché of the German embassy in Brussels.

Wito J. Meskank

IN BRIEF

Declaration of the Standing Committee of the Regional Council of Alsace

The Regional Council of Alsace deplores the fact that the preceding government (French Government) has not signed The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, adopted by the Council of Europe on the 24th of June 1992 and opened for signature by Member States since the 5th of November 1992.

The Regional Council of Alsace notes that, contrary to what might have been claimed, an accurate analysis of the text of the European Charter shows that each State signing the Charter can alter its obligations according to the particular situation pertaining to each of its regional languages.

The Regional Council of Alsace stresses in particular that the regional languages of France should not be considered as foreign languages.

The Regional Council of Alsace considers that neither Article 2 of the Constitution nor any other major provision of public law is contrary to the introduction of provisions from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages into the legal system of the Republic.

The Regional Council of Alsace reasserts again its wish, already expressed in many preceding motions, to see this European Convention signed and ratified by France who will then be able to reinforce the credibility of French as a major international language and provide an example of cultural democracy to the whole of Europe.

Motion adopted 10 Sept 1993.

Gaelic Terminology Database

The Gaelic Terminology Database Unit was established at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic-medium College of Further Education on the Isle of Skye, Scotland, in 1986. Its primary function has been to develop a database of terminology and vocabulary and modern technical material. The material, which is stored on a SUN IPC computing system at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, has been assembled for publication in hard-copy English-Gaelic bilingual dictionary format (Volume 1). The publication comprises over 30,000 English headwords with over 93,000 Gaelic equivalents. As the most comprehensive collection of its type, it should prove a unique reference tool for all who use the Gaelic language.

CURIA

Curia: Thesaurus Linguarum Hiberniae, is the title of a project which will make available on computer and on-line the corpus of early and medieval Irish literature in its various original languages and in translation where necessary and where available. It is envisaged that it will provide a resource for literary scholars, historians and genealogists, linguists, legal scholars, lexicographers and others interested in Irish or comparative studies. Curia will collaborate with scholars worldwide and seeks relevant machine-readable data-sets in any format. Scholarly collaborators will enjoy free access to all the materials in the on-line archive from the beginning. For further information please write to Dr Patricia Kelly, CURIA Editorial Secretary, Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: +353.1.6620363. Fax: +353.1.6762346.

GYPSY CONGRESS

The Fourth World Gypsy Congress, which took place in Warsaw from the 8th to the 12th of April 1990 has adopted the new alphabet proposed by the Commission on the Romany language which met in Warsaw on the 5th and 6th of April 1990.

A Working Group, supported by the Gypsy Research Centre (Centre des recherches tsiganes) of the University René Descartes (106, quai de Clichy, F-92110 Clichy) is doing research as well as being active in Romany linguistics.

Additional information, an explanatory note on the new alphabet along with help in the preparation of texts or proof-reading can be obtained from the Working Group.

TRINITY COLLEGE, CARMARTHEN

Associate College of the University of Wales

Visiting Senior Research Fellowship

The College proposes to elect a visiting research scholar during the academic year 1994-1995. The fellowship is intended for those scholars who are already provided with financial support, and who wish to pursue academic study and research as a member of an associated college of the University of Wales.

The College invites applications from scholars in the field of bilingualism, language planning and minority languages for the research fellowship. The successful Fellow will be a member of the SCR and will have full dining and lunching rights.

Letters of application enclosing a curriculum vitae, a list of publications and a brief statement of the programme of work to be pursued should be sent to the Assistant Principal [Education]. Applicants should also name three referees. It is the responsibility of applicants to ask their referees to send their references direct to the College by the closing date.

Applications to be sent to: Trinity College, Carmarthen, Dyfed, SA31 3EP Wales.
Closing Date: May 1994.

European M.A. – Bilingualism and Language Planning – lesser used European languages [one year course]

Applications are invited from students interested in the promotion of the lesser used European languages for admission to this new European degree. The foundation course will be taught at Trinity College whilst the special options may be taken at another European University [eg. in the Netherlands, Ireland, Catalonia and Italy]. Details from The Registrar, Trinity College, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA31 3EP, Wales.

Database of Cultural Activities –

Theatre Groups: a first provisional listing

Up until now contacts between theatre groups from minority cultures have been incidental. In order to bring about a change in this, an infrastructural basis needs to be established. A databank of all (semi-)professional theatre groups in lesser used language cultures within the European Union can be the start of such an interchange. This would include an exchange between the various lesser used language theatre groups throughout our community.

By cooperating together through the setting up of such interchanges one can help resolve problems such as coping with a limited consumer market and the limited source of artistic and organisational talent, and assuring that theatre continue to be an important instrument in passing on our cultures and traditions to future generations. Such interchanges will facilitate discussions on the aims of different theatre groups/companies from our regions and how they can collectively reach these aims.

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages intends to set up the above-mentioned databank and would request all theatre groups to respond positively to requests for information. A provisional list of professional or semi-professional theatre groups, and umbrella organisations for the amateur groups is now available from the address below for 5 ECU. A few linguistic groups are as yet not represented but we would welcome information on theatre groups in these communities in addition to data already included. The exchange of information via a periodical demands a more intensive contribution, however, and theatre groups from lesser used language regions are being requested to join an editorial board. Those interested in becoming members of this editorial board or anyone seeking further information are requested to contact Wolfgang Jenniges at the following address:

EBLUL-Information Centre, Rue Saint-Josse 49/Sint-Joostraat 49, B-1030 Bruxelles/Brussel. Tel: +32.2.2182590. Fax: +32.2.2181974

Mercator-EDUCATION

The first Mercator-Education network meeting took place in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Friesland from 13-15 May 1993. The network aims at collection, storage and distribution of data on minority languages and education (see Contact Bulletin 9.3, pages 6-7). Besides its coordinating centre, located at the Fryske Akademy in Ljouwert, centres in 15 language communities throughout the European Union are responsible for collection of data. Ten of them were represented at the meeting. The meeting focussed on activities within the Mercator-Education network, the participating centres' experience with data collection and a view to future developments.

On the first day participants were presented with the work of the coordinating centre and, in particular, with the functioning of the common databank. The emphasis was placed on the collection of bibliographic data related to minority languages and education. All participants agreed to continue with the present methods of gathering bibliographic data in order to publish a joint bibliography on this theme. It was also suggested that cooperation with national libraries could solve problems in preparing abstracts of the publications to be included. A problem encountered in various communities was the working language: English, however, was not always feasible in certain communities. The coordination centre was asked to search for possibilities to overcome such language problems.

The second day was opened by Ms Johanneke Liemburg, deputy of the Province of Friesland, responsible for Education and Culture. She stressed the Province's policy to sustain the teaching of Frisian. Afterwards, Mr Jan-Egbert Kuipers of the Dutch Ministry of Home Affairs gave a lecture on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe. The afternoon session was dedicated to the common collection of factual data in the network. In his introduction, Mr Rommert Tjeerdsma of the coordination centre, gave a presentation on the methods of collection, description and research of the data. The collection of factual data by participants was discussed afterwards.

The last day of the meeting saw a presentation of the EURYDICE network, the Education network of the European Union, which in several aspects shared the experiences of the Mercator-Education network. Mr Domenico Lenarduzzi, of the Task Force: Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth spoke on the perspectives the network might have and the Commission's policy towards it. As the Commission is well aware that cultural diversity is an aspect of great importance to the common heritage of all citizens, it promotes initiatives to safeguard all languages that constitute the expression of diversity. In that framework the network is of special consideration to the European Commission and should be sponsored by it alongside regional and national funding, he declared.

In summing up, the following recommendations and suggestions for future work schemes were put forward:

— Expert meetings may be held more often, especially before beginning an activity or project. Moreover, these mutual contacts are essential to succeed in cooperation.

— As Mercator-Education is important for contacts, the Commission should continue to support the network.

— A feasibility study shall be initiated to examine on-line availability of information for centres participating in Mercator-Education and a link-up with EURYDICE.

The meeting meant three busy days for all participants, but it can be an important step forward for the exchange of information on minority languages and education and the cooperation of experts.

Mark Stuijt, Mercator-Education

Mercator-GENERAL STUDIES

Since July 1993, the "Mercator Programme: Minorities – General Studies" is based in the *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme*, a prestigious foundation which plays an important role in the support of various innovative research teams in the social sciences. The fact that the *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme* was willing to house us demonstrates the increasing interest of present-day society in our work. In these new surroundings we shall from now be better placed to combine the energies of the different disciplines involved in our programme, both in France and abroad, allowing for research into the linguistic minorities of Europe with a view to progress.

The team currently consists of the following:

- Coordination, management of the bibliographical database and of the database concerning linguistic policy: Henri Giordan, assisted by Claudio Cratchley;
- Political Science: Hervé Guillorel, Head of Research at CNRS, Université de Paris X-Nanterre;
- Judicial Anthropology: Norbert Rouland, Professor at the Faculty of Law in Aix-en-Provence, President of the *Association française d'Anthropologie du Droit*;
- International Law: Emmanuel Decaux, Professor at the Université de Paris X-Nanterre, Director of the *Centre de Droit International* at the Université de Paris X-Nanterre.

The database contains at present about 4000 references related to the various disciplines being analysed. These references are selected by Claudio Cratchley in constant liaison with the researchers of the team. This way the irreplaceable experience of the various specialists involved in this programme is placed at the disposal of the scientific community and of the interested public, thus giving it the benefit of this expertise.

Data is analysed by a provisional thesaurus of keywords. The creation of a thesaurus containing a central part which would be shared between the four Mercator centres is currently being looked into. However, as we felt it was necessary to continue indexing the references we have selected, we drafted a first version of the thesaurus containing about 700 entries.

Data are stored on the ProCite system and made available to the public in the ProCite format or on a text file.

Being based at the *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme* has allowed us to engage in a number of specific research projects, parallel to the setting up of the database, which has resulted in new types of cooperation:

- *History and analysis of fundamental concepts concerning minorities* (Dir. Hervé Guillorel; Université de Paris X-Nanterre), which comprises a critical analysis of the *concepts or paradigms* which allow a more theoretical approach to the situations that interest us, as well as a comparative analysis of the *usage and ideology* concerning our research object, and finally an analysis of the vocabulary used to describe our research object.
- *Study of the development of international and constitutional law*. This project is co-directed by Emmanuel Decaux, Professor at the Université de Paris X-Nanterre and Norbert Rouland, Professor at the Université d'Aix-en-Provence, and analyses the way in which international and constitutional law treat issues of ethnic and cultural diversity.
- *Inventory of judicial texts concerning the status of the languages in Europe* (Dir. Prof. Emmanuel Decaux). This study will look at the official status of the languages of Europe in international organisations (official and working languages from a judicial point of view; balance of power in usage and political demands), on a multilateral level (cultural spheres, institutional network of the French-speaking world, etc.), on a bilateral level (agreements of cultural cooperation, political treaties and linguistic aspects), as well as on a national and intra-state level.
- *French law and the issue of minorities* (Dir. Prof. Norbert Rouland). The following questions will be addressed: to what degree does French law recognise the existence of minorities, and how does it deal with cultural and ethnic differences? French law can for instance recognise the rightful existence of autochthonous customs (mostly in New Caledonia, Guyana, Polynesia), so what should be France's position vis-à-vis judicial initiatives by the European institutions concerning the rights of minorities, and especially linguistic rights?

Finally, our team has just launched a publication with the aid of the Commission of the European Union, the French Minister for Culture, and the Université de Paris X-Nanterre:

Guillorel Hervé; Sibille, Jean (éds.) 1993. *Langues, dialectes et écriture: les langues romanes de France*, Paris: Institut d'Etudes Occitanes: Institut de Politique Internationale et Européenne, 1993. 320p. ISBN: 2-85910-155-1.

This publication contains the lectures presented at the international colloquium held on 16, 17 and 18 April 1992 at the Université de Paris X-Nanterre. The aim of the colloquium was to start a general debate on the conditions of survival and development of the various romance "minority" languages found on the territory of France. The proposed scientific approach offers analyses and conclusions which could be useful for the study of the situation of regional and minority languages in other parts of Europe. This approach prompts three major questions: issues concerning the status of these different languages, analysis of the social reality of their usage and finally, issues concerning linguistic "normalisation". This publication also tries to further multi-disciplinary approaches.

Henri Giordan
(contact address: 40 rue des Aulnes, F-92330 Sceaux, France)

Mercator - LEGISLATION

On 28 July 1993 the Head of Government of the Principality of Andorra, on the occasion of the accession of this small Pyrenean country as a full member of the United Nations declared, in Catalan, to the General Assembly: "We know full well that in order to deal with others one has to become cosmopolitan and polyglot but we also know that our roots are vital to our existence. Our roots are those of Catalan. Catalan is our official language. It is the language spoken from the town of Fraga in the Spanish province of Aragon to the town of Mao in the island of Minorca, and from the town of Salses in the Roussillon region of France to the town of Guardamar in the south of the Valencia region of Spain – in other words, it is spoken throughout the Catalan countries. And now it is through the medium of this language that I am addressing this Assembly to speak of peace, liberty and fraternity."

Although the Andorran Head of Government spoke solely on behalf of his own state, he assumed a major historic role in identifying himself as a "Pan-Catalan". He obviously had to uphold the Catalan language which under Article 2 of the new Constitution carried by a referendum in March 1993 is the sole official language of Andorra, but he went much further than that in his support of a language which, in the greater part of the territory on which it is spoken, is still in the process of standardisation and which, at international level, has not acquired the status of an official language. The Andorran Head of Government took the historic step of elevating the united Catalan language to the rank of an international language while rightly pointing out that the language of each individual (even if it is a language spoken only by a small number) is the language of that individual's "identification", a reality which is not in opposition to the need to learn other perhaps "more useful" languages.

The world thus received a message which enriches the debate on the importance of a language, a message whose import goes beyond the particular case of Catalan. There was also the paradox of a tiny country showing the way to much larger countries on the linguistic and juridicial front. It is now up to those larger countries to respond to the Andorran UN initiative by spelling out their own linguistic commitments. Obviously their responses will not solve all the problems facing minority languages, but the official status implied would be a great boost to full linguistic standardisation. Obviously Andorra, being a sovereign state, enjoys an advantage which the other Catalan countries do not have in asserting their linguistic rights, but Andorra has issued a call to all Catalans to become more and more "Andorran" in defending those rights.

Aureli Argemi-Oriel Ramon,
Mercator-Legislation, Pau Claris
106 1er 1a, E-08009 Barcelona,
Catalonia.

Mercator - MEDIA

As Mercator Media enters its fifth year, the project is developing faster than ever. The first volume of our Mercator Media Guide was published a few months ago and almost half the print-run has already been sold. The Mercator Media Guide Volume 1 should be available in at least one bookshop in all lesser used language communities. However, those having any difficulty in getting a copy, should contact us at Mercator Media.

We are currently working on the second volume of the Mercator Media Guide which will include about 12 language communities which were not featured in Volume 1.

The Mercator Media Guides are edited extracts from our on-going data base which aims to include entries on all media who use lesser used languages. Our multilingual database includes entries on television channels and companies, radio, newspapers, magazines, journals, book publishers, distributors and sellers, libraries, associations for the media, electronic networks etc. We are always glad to accept any material which would help to make our database more complete. If the media are alive and healthy, then they ought to be in a process of constant change and development. This is good news for our languages and cultures; and more work for the Mercator Media Team!

Our media network must be expanded. We will be looking for more correspondents in more language communities. Our new media annual, which will appear in 1994, will serve as a forum to report, analyse and discuss developments in the media of lesser used languages. With news of the Irish television channel finally on its way, Scottish Gaelic and Frisian television growing rapidly to mention but a few, it would seem that we are on the second wave of expansion in lesser used language television. Other communities without a reasonable level of television service may also benefit from these experiences. The aim of our network and our media annuals is to facilitate communication between those who are involved and interested in the communication business.

For more information on Mercator Media, contact Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Mercator, Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth SY23 3AS, Cymru-Wales. +44.970.622533 and 622190 (fax).

Vacancy/Scholarship

Mercator Media is eager to hear from young people (aged 25 or younger) who are able to communicate in Italian about the possibility of spending between nine months and one year at our centre in Wales.

We are looking for someone to collect data about lesser used languages and the media in Italy. Training will be given at Mercator Media and the University of Wales.

The funding available for this scholarship is £3500 (sterling)

Our internal language is Welsh, all non-Welsh speaking team members, past and present, have learned the language during their period with Mercator Media. Enthusiasm for lesser used languages is essential; knowledge of English is not.

Study Visit to Languedoc-Roussillon

Participants on the Study Visit to Languedoc-Roussillon, October 1992.

Lesser Used Language speakers from Valencia, Ireland, Wales, the Basque Country, Galicia and the Albanian minority in Italy headed off to Languedoc-Roussillon under the auspices of the European Bureau's study visit programme organised in collaboration with the Commission of the European Union. Other visits during the 1992-93 academic year were organised to Scotland, Galicia, Ireland, the Germanophones in Denmark, the Sorbs in Germany, and the Albanian and Greek Communities in Calabria (Italy), however the visit to Languedoc-Roussillon was unique in that participants were offered the opportunity of seeing at close hand the situation of the two lesser used languages in the Languedoc-Roussillon Region of France – Occitan and Catalan. Participants submitted a report on their visit and what comes across most strongly in the reports on this particular visit is the strong contrast between the position of these two languages.

Elin Haf Gryffydd Jones (Wales) points out in her report that Catalan has less speakers than Occitan in France but is in a stronger position in that it benefits from the achievements of Catalan across the border. Books are readily available in the language and speakers can tune into the many Catalan radio and TV stations from across the border in the Spanish state. For Jones the language in many ways resembled a transfrontier minority where a community more than a language was being threatened.

Occitan, on the other hand, though spoken by an estimated 48% of the population in an area comprising 31 'Départments', does not benefit from its status in another member state and in spite of having more speakers than Catalan in this region it has less resources at its disposal and its status is therefore weaker. Neither of these languages however receive official recognition from the French authorities in Paris but in recent years the authorities of Région Languedoc-Roussillon have become more interested in their cultural heritage and are turning a blind eye towards the negativity of Paris through supporting local initiatives involving the lesser used languages of the region.

In spite of this lack of official support participants were pleasantly taken aback by the enthusiasm of those working for the language on the ground. Breandán Delap (Ireland) describes in his report the dedicated work, against much odds, being carried out by teachers in the 'Calandreta' Occitan-medium primary schools. Participants visited one such school in Béziers and were shown how children overcame the problem of the lack of books in Occitan by painting over the French text and pasting the Occitan translation over it. Over 500 children attend the Calandreta schools where the standard of education has proven to be on a par with French medium schools. For this reason and also due to the fact that the pupil-teacher ratio is lower than in all-French medium schools, more parents are becoming interested in sending their children there. Catalan was in a slightly better situation in that it is the language of instruction at pre-primary and primary schools being run by voluntary associations which receive financial support from local and regional authorities and whose teachers are paid in part by the state. Delap is less positive however in his description of the languages' presence at secondary level. Catalan, he writes, is only offered in a very discontinuous fashion as an optional subject while those wishing to study Occitan can do so only at the discretion of an available and willing teacher.

Participants also visited Montpellier University where, according to Aingeal Seoighe (Ireland), Occitan is studied by around 250 students. The curriculum and course outline however is very much based on the middle ages. Catalan, on the other hand, which is taught at the University Paul Valéry in Perpignan has a curriculum much more orientated towards the modern world of today. Seoighe goes on to point out in her report another major advantage Catalan has over Occitan: those studying Catalan can benefit from exchanges with universities and other third level institutions in the Catalan countries outside of France, and when qualified will receive a posting in a school where Catalan is taught. The teacher of Occitan however can be sent to a school anywhere in France!

Juli Avinant Martínez (Valencia) gives a rather depressing account of the situation of Occitan in the media where it is hardly represented at all. The public television channel broadcasts approximately 30 minutes every Sunday (shared with Catalan) and some private local stations use the language. The language's presence in newspapers is even weaker where it appears only sporadically. Martinez was more impressed with the situation of Catalan in the media. A private station run by a voluntary organisation broadcasts entirely in Catalan 24 hours a day. In addition to this there are about 10 hours of public radio broadcasts per week and a weekly bilingual newspaper carrying local, national and international news.

In spite of the rather weak presence of Occitan in the media, and education participants all felt hope for the language and felt that there was a strong good will amongst those on the ground which was becoming stronger and stronger. All participants expressed their gratitude to their local guides Etienne Hamel and Jean-Michel Peludan without whom the visit would not have been the pleasurable and informative experience it was.

The information note for the 1993-94 study visit programme will be available in March and those interested can write to any of the addresses on the back page for copies. Details of destinations will appear in the next edition of Contact-Bulletin.

Diarmaid Breathnach

Indigenous Cultures and Tourism

What do Santiago de Compostela, Barcelona, Biarritz, Snowdonia, the Isle of Skye, San Sebastian, Majorca, Val Gardena, Provence, Pamplona, Galway Bay and Lourdes share in common? They are all located in areas of Europe where non state or minority languages are spoken. In this article Allan Wynne Jones examines some aspects of the relationship between one such language, Welsh, and tourism.

With so much justifiable concern focused on the impact of tourism on remote, exotic and fragile indigenous cultures, it is easy to forget that in Europe, we also have many autochthonous languages and cultures that are affected by tourism.

If one were to superimpose a map of resort, religious and especially rural tourism areas on to that of the lesser used languages map of Europe, one would find that many of them coincide. Breton, Catalan, Basque, Frisian, Galician, Occitan, Corsican, Sardinian, Ladin, Gaelic, Irish and Welsh for example are all spoken in areas of intensive tourist activity. Between them they probably account for a large percentage of the non-urban tourism revenue in the European Union.

Although these languages are supported by widely varying cultures, they have one thing in common from the average tourist's point of view – it is possible to visit all such areas without being aware of, or in close contact with, the local language.

For example, the most widely spoken of these non-state languages, Catalan (more people speak Catalan than Danish – an official EU language) now enjoys a much higher international profile thanks largely to its use in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. But one suspects that the vast majority of those who visit the Costa Brava or Majorca are unaware that the first language of local people is not Spanish!

Although much credence is given to the potential of cultural tourism for many European regions, seldom are local languages seen as visible ingredients in promotion.

Welsh, probably one of the most vibrant of Europe's small national languages is spoken by half a million people, mainly in the most visited northern and western parts of Wales. Yet it enjoys an uneasy and unnecessarily distant relationship with tourism. Comparatively little use is made of the language in the tourist industry; participation of Welsh speakers in tourism, especially at managerial level or above, is relatively low and few Welsh speakers operate tourism enterprises.

Many Welsh cultural leaders, while appreciating the economic potential of tourism, remain suspicious of its impact on the Welsh language. Those living in rural areas tend to see tourism in the same light as recent in-migration by English people, who now account for 20% of the total population of Wales, though this rises to 30% in parts of the Welsh 'heartland' and over 50% in some nearby coastal pockets.

It is claimed (often incorrectly) that tourism has helped to 'expose' Wales to potential newcomers and that the ownership of holiday properties like caravans or cottages can accentuate family links with a locality, later leading to permanent relocation.

For Welsh and non-Welsh speakers alike, discussion about the status and future of the language, and its relationship with tourism can be emotive and highly charged especially when ill-informed!

Recent census results reveal that half a million people, nearly 19% of the population, can speak Welsh, while opinion surveys indicate that more than twice as many people have some knowledge of the language.

The language has been in decline since records were first kept at the beginning of the century, when nearly a million speakers, or half the population were able to speak it. But detailed analysis of the 1991 census reveals that the decline has been arrested and that the proportion of young people aged 3 to 15 able to speak Welsh is now 25%, much higher than for the population as a whole. So that if present trends continue, the 2001 census will probably reveal that, in statistical terms at least, the language has 'turned the corner'.

Tourism is a very conspicuous activity in Wales, in social, environmental, employment and economic terms. It supports 95,000 jobs, representing 9% of the workforce and generates an annual revenue of £1.25 billion. Each year around 9 million tourists spend 41 million nights here, while an estimated 32 million leisure day visits were taken in Wales. The resident population is only 2.7 million!

Relatively few (4%) of the overseas visitors to Britain come to Wales – around 620,000 per year, staying 4.8 million nights and spending an estimated £128 million.

Yet as suggested earlier, Welsh speakers do not play a prominent role in Wales' commercial tourism concerns. For example only a handful of the 1200 hotels are owned and operated by Welsh speakers, and only one establishment makes creative use of the language, culture and customs in its marketing and operations. Within the attractions sector there are only four commercially owned enterprises which make full and dignified use of the language on site. This is in spite of the fact that a significant proportion of visitors to Wales, especially overseas visitors appreciate the local culture and want to enjoy more of it during their visit.

Close analysis of 1981 census statistics for the most Welsh speaking county in Wales, Gwynedd, can confirm such observations. Although 62% of Gwynedd's workforce is Welsh-speaking, only 35% of its hotel and catering workforce fall into this category. Furthermore, Welsh speakers are considerably under represented in positions of responsibility within the industry.

It is ironic that tourism, the very sector of the Welsh economy which could benefit from greater use of the Welsh language is shunned by so many of its speakers. However, there are promising signs that this imbalance in Welsh life has been recognised and is at last being addressed.

The Wales Tourist Board in a recent strategy discussion document has reaffirmed its commitment to the Welsh language and its potential role in making Wales a more distinctive destination for overseas visitors.

Development bodies have created

continued page 11

Tourism (contd.)

Menter a Busnes, an organisation which campaigns to change Welsh speakers' perceptions of business and persuade more of them to become involved in commercial enterprises, including tourism.

But the divide between tourism and the language has been growing for two centuries, since the early growth of tourism in Snowdonia. It can be bridged only by a task force drawn from several public bodies which has the confidence and goodwill of Welsh speakers, as well as the tourism industry.

An economic development programme targetted at Welsh speakers involving an attitude building campaign, search for new investment opportunities, sensitive human resource development, a range of financial incentives and careful nurturing of new enterprises in the years ahead, could bring enhanced tourism opportunities for Welsh speakers and a more dignified role for the Welsh language and culture in tourism.

Such joint action could ensure that Welsh speakers derive greater benefit from tourism and in turn maximise their own contribution to the future economy of Wales. It would also enable tourist organisations to project a more distinctive image of the nation, thus helping directly in the vital drive to attract more visitors from overseas. By using culture selectively and without compromising its integrity, tourism could also be used as a positive force in efforts to restore the language.

Unless such measures are implemented, it is likely that many Welsh people will persist in their negative views on tourism, choosing to concentrate on its harmful impacts rather than its potential opportunities.

Welsh speakers have only to look at the success of their own television channel and its derivative commercial activities to appreciate the opportunities.

Allan Wynne Jones has had nearly 30 years of experience in tourism as tourist board director, hotelier and tourism consultant. He is now involved in economic development among Welsh speakers and associated with the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

19th FUEN Congress in Flensburg

19th Congress of European Nationalities held in Flensburg (20-22 May 1993) by *the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)*

The Föderalistische Union Europäischer Volksgruppen (FUEV) acts as a "mouthpiece" for Europe's minorities and ethnic groups. "It is for the regional government the indispensable partner vis-à-vis society and politics", according to Heide Simonis, Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, who spoke at a reception prior to the opening of the 19th FUEN Congress, which saw the participation of more than 300 minority representatives from all parts of Europe. In recognition of the achievements of the FUEN to date, the Prime Minister promised the organisation continuing financial support for the future. She emphasised further, that the times of quarrelsome co-existence of majority and minority groups in the German-Danish border region are long gone, and have made way for the peaceful coexistence of German and Danish in Südschleswig, and of Danish and German in Nordschleswig, thanks to regulations and the goodwill of both sides. She announced four initiatives, which would go beyond the current minority policy of Schleswig-Holstein:

1. a broadening of the regional constitution and a re-endorsement of minority protection;
2. a special promotion of Frisian through the introduction of enhanced Frisian education;
3. the establishment of a European Centre for Minority Issues, in collaboration with Denmark;
4. an initiative of the government of Schleswig-Holstein to apply in the German parliament for the inclusion of a minority clause in the German constitution, which has already been successful.

Vice-President of the European Parliament, Siegfried Alber, said at the congress, that he had largely adopted the excellent draft of the FUEN for a European minority convention in his own draft report for the European Parliament. He stated further that he would take the introduction of a European ombudsman for ethnic groups into consideration. The German Minister for Internal Affairs, Rudolf Seiters announced that the German government welcomed and supported the FUEN initiative to add a protocol to the European Human Rights Convention in the Council of Europe. The German Minister for Foreign Affairs, Klaus Kinkel and the Vice-President of the Danish Parliament, Ivar Hansen praised the successful co-existence of the minority groups in the Schleswig region.

The *"Föderalistische Union Europäischer Volksgruppen"* was founded in 1949 – the same year as the Council of Europe – in Versailles, near Paris in the presence of the current French president, François Mitterand. It was created as an umbrella organisation for the national minorities and ethnic peoples of Europe. Its aim is the preservation of the national uniqueness, language, culture and rights for survival of the European ethnic groups, and the creation of an internationally recognised ethnic community law. In the area of human rights, the FUEN supports the work of the Council of Europe, where it has consultative status since 1989, and of the United Nations, where it has also applied for consultative status. Currently, the FUEN has 75 member organisations, ranging from Brittany and Wales to the Caucasus and the Baltic Sea, and representing at least 16 million people. Since 1990 an increasing number of organisations from mid-eastern, south-eastern and eastern European countries have become members, and therefore the FUEN has decided to issue its publications and decisions not only in English, French and German, but also in Russian.

Because of the bloody events in former Yugoslavia, the delegates decided in a resolution to demand the calling of an all-European conference including representatives of the ethnic minority organisations as advisors. In a second resolution the delegates addressed the ministerial committee of the Council of Europe, as well as the presidents of parliament and ministers of foreign affairs of the member states of the Council of Europe, requesting they take part in the consultations concerning an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, and in the codification of a European ethnic community law. As the biggest and most representative ethnic minority organisation in Europe, the FUEN offers all institutions its expertise, gained over the last 44 years.

Rudolf Kern

Slovenian Delegation in Strasbourg

The situation of the Slovenian minority in Italy was the subject of discussions with several representatives of the European institutions in Strasbourg on 15 and 16 September last. A large joint delegation, representing all Slovenian groups in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, thus had its first opportunity to inform comprehensively the representatives of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe of the circumstances in which their community finds itself, still lacking the proper funding and support mechanisms which would enable it to achieve a normal existence and balanced development and to withstand the ongoing process of assimilation.

The Slovenes in Italy decided to approach the European institutions because of the awareness and interests shown on many occasions by the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages in relation to issues of cultural and linguistic diversity within the Member States of the EU.

During a busy schedule of talks in Strasbourg, the Slovenian delegation, which was accompanied by the Member of the European Parliament from Trieste, Giorgio Rossetti, met the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Roberto Barzanti, the President of the Committee for Minorities, Conceptio Ferrer y Casals, representatives from all the Parliamentary Groups and the Secretary General of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Dónal Ó Riagáin. There were also meetings with the General Secretary of the Council of Europe, Catherine Lalumière, the Secretary of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, Rinaldo Locatelli and the Secretary of the Council of Europe Committee for Human Rights, Hannu Hartig.

The Italian Slovenes gave all these representatives a memorandum setting out the minority's position and requesting the European institutions to support the legitimate claims of the Slovenian minority within their area of competence.

Bojan Brezigar

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages seeks to preserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Union, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland, and as an ASBL in Belgium. It works in close cooperation with the Commission of the European Union and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe and oth[illegible]bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the Commission of the EU, the Irish Government, the Government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the Germanophone Communities of Belgium.

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European Parliament reaffirms its support for our languages

Total votes cast: 325 – in favour: 318 – against: 1 – abstentions: 6, read the electronic scoreboard at the rear of the rostrum in the hemicycle of the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg when the European Parliament voted by a landslide majority to adopt the Killilea Report on 9 February 1994.

The report had a long period of gestation. Following on a proposal from John Hume MEP (Soc., N. Ireland) in 1990, the Parliament's Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media entrusted the task of preparing a new report on the Community's lesser used languages to an Irish member, Mark Killilea (EDA). On the advice of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, whose assistance and support Mr. Killilea sought and was readily given, the rapporteur appointed Ricarda Jenniges as researcher and assistant. A questionnaire on the position of each language community was sent in the first instance to the member state governments and subsequently to regional governments, local authorities, research institutes, language associations etc. The result is a very detailed and well-researched document.

Mark Killilea, MEP

In the course of the report's preparation and even during the period when it was being discussed in some detail by the parliamentary committee, the Council of Europe accorded the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages the legal form of a Convention. Mr. Killilea then decided to curtail the length of his draft motion for resolution, leaving out some of the detailed proposals which were more than adequately covered by the Charter, and instead threw his full weight into supporting the Charter. In paragraph 6 the Parliament supports the Charter as "an effective yet flexible instrument for the protection and promotion of lesser used languages" and in the following paragraph "calls on the member state governments which have not yet done so as a matter of urgency to sign and their parliaments to ratify the Convention choosing at all times to apply those paragraphs best suited to the needs and aspirations of the linguistic communities in question".

Making specific reference to a number of educational and cultural programmes (e.g. Youth for Europe, Erasmus, Kaleidoscope, Media), the resolution calls on the Commission, when working out various areas of Community policy, to take account of the lesser used languages and their attendant cultures and to make equivalent provision for the needs of those who use them.

Honing in on the issue of electronic media, the report calls on the Commission to "encourage the use of lesser used languages in the Community's audio-visual policy, for instance in respect of High Definition Television and assist lesser used language producers and broadcasters to produce new programmes". It furthermore calls on the Commission to "ensure that modern digital telecommunications technology, which allows for the compressing of satellite and cable broadcast transmissions, is used for carrying a greater number of

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minority languages".

Another very specific recommendation to the Commission, this one relating to the field of language teaching, calls for the putting in place as quickly as possible of a programme inspired by Lingua for lesser used languages.

It also calls on the Council and Commission to "take due account of the linguistic and cultural heritage of regions in the development of regional policy and in the allocation of funds from the European Regional Development Fund by supporting integrated regional development projects which include measures to support regional languages and cultures, as well as in the development of social policy and in the allocation of funds from the ESF."

The Bureau itself is mentioned in a number of articles. The resolution calls on member state governments and on the local and regional authorities to encourage and support specialised associations, in particular the member state committees of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, and to provide them with the necessary resources.

The report provoked a lively and very positive debate. On 8 February, no fewer than 24 MEPs spoke on the report as well as Commissioner Pinheiro. Prior to the vote being taken a further eighteen members gave oral or written "explanations of vote". Many of the contributors were old and trusted supporters of our languages e.g. Joachim Dalsass (EPP,Sud Tirol), Yves Frémion (Green, Occitania), Gasòliba i Böhm (LDR, Catalonia), Barrera I Costa (European Free Alliance, Catalonia), Alexander Langer (Green, Sud Tirol), Max Simeoni (European Free Alliance, Corsica), John Hume (Soc, Northern Ireland), Winnie Ewing (European Free Alliance, Scotland), T.J.Maher (LDR, Ireland), Nicole Pery (Soc, Basque) and Giorgio Rossetti (Soc, Trieste).

Mark Killilea gave three reasons for preparing yet another report on lesser used languages – the resurgence of small nations and repressed communities in central and eastern Europe, practically all of them seeking linguistic and cultural rights; the adoption of the Maastricht Treaty which for the first time recognised the cultural and linguistic diversity of the European Union; the adoption by the Council of Europe of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and its signing by 13 European democracies.

Acknowledging the support he had received in preparing his report, Mr.Killilea said "*....But what gave me greatest encouragement was the support I received from the speakers of the lesser used languages themselves and especially those who are working for them. Their enthusiasm and trust in us was truly moving for me. Since 1981, when they first obtained modest support from the European Community, thanks to the Arfe Report, they have made enormous strides, coordinated and inspired by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, which was established under the aegis of this Parliament. They have put in place a range of activities of which they can be justifiably proud. The development of this I appreciate entirely. They did not betray that trust we placed in them. What have we to say to them today? After having experienced discrimination, marginalisation and alienation, in many cases for centuries, the speakers of Europe's regional and minority languages are finding their rightful place in the shaping of a Europe of peoples – of all its peoples*".

Another interesting feature of the debate was that the first ever full intervention in the Irish language was given. The speaker was Pat Cox (LDR, Ireland). Irish may be used in the Parliament if advance notice is given to the interpretation service. Some sentences were also spoken in Catalan, Basque and Welsh – without official approval of the President but nevertheless produced in the verbatim report of proceedings!

Besides the enormity of the majority in favour of the report and the fact that no amendments were tabled in the plenary session, one of the most surprising things about the vote is the fact that the report attracted support right across the political spectrum from the European Right to the Left Unity Group and former Communists now Non-attached. The sole negative vote was cast by Léon Schwartzenberg, a French Socialist. No doubt because of some technical default only five of the six abstentions were given in the printed record of voting. Three of those abstaining, M.Benoit, Mme.Buron and Mme.Mebrak-Zaidi are also French Socialists. The others are Mr.Kellett-Bowman, an English Conservative and Sig.Laroni, an Italian Socialist. Of the dissenters only Schwartzenberg spoke. He said that while accepting the teaching of such languages out of respect for family or regional traditions, he could not accept that official or administrative documents be available in any language other than the national language. He feared endangering the unity of each nation and said we should be trying to get rid of frontiers and not be creating new ones.

Dónall Ó Riagáin, Secretary General of the Bureau, said he was absolutely jubilant at the result. "*It was part of a historical process*", he said. "*The adoption of the Killilea report should be viewed in the context of the adoption of the Arfé Report in 1981, the Kuijpers Report in 1987 and the decision of the Council of Europe in 1992 to make a Convention of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. All of this is leading inexorably towards the building of a new Europe where linguistic and cultural diversity will be respected.*

"*The size of the majority should not belie the fact that there had been stiff opposition to the report at various stages. At committee stage efforts were made to completely derail it and as late as the Monday of the plenary session efforts were still afoot to have the report referred back to committee – no doubt in the hope that it would never get before a plenary session again in the life of the present Parliament. Too often in the past our opponents have bettered us. But this time we were a step ahead of them. The Bureau and its allies can be justifiably proud of having built an effective network of friends in the Parliament and of having developed a lobbying machine which is second to none. By any standards, a majority of 98% is a triumph.*

"*I warmly applaud Mr.Killilea and those who collaborated with him. Let our victory on this occasion inspire us to even greater success in the future.*"

LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL MINORITIES – A3 – 0042 / 94

Resolution on linguistic and cultural minorities in the European Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 16 October 1981 on a Community charter of regional languages and cultures and a charter of rights for ethnic minorities[1],
- having regard to its resolution of 11 February 1983 on measures in favour of minority languages and cultures[2],
- having regard to its resolution of 30 October 1987 on the languages and cultures of regional and ethnic minorities in the European Community[3],
- having regard to its resolution of 21 January 1993 on the Commission communication to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee entitled "New Prospects for Community cultural action"[4],
- having regard to the motions for resolutions by:
- Mr Hume and others on the minority languages (B3–0016/90);
- Mr Gangoiti Llaguno on the promotion and use of regional and/or minority languages (B3-2113/90);
- Mr Bandrés Molet on granting broadcasting licences to Basque-language radio stations (B3-0523/91);
- Mrs Van Hemeldonck on the signing of the European Charter of regional and minority languages (B3–1351/92);
- having regard to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, accorded the legal form of a European Convention by the Council of Europe, and opened for signature on 5 November 1992,
- having regard to the final document of the Copenhagen meeting of the CSCE conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (5-29 June 1990) and in particular to Chapter IV of that document;
- having regard to the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (CSCE) adopted in Paris on 21 November 1991,
- having regard to Rule 148 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media and the opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights (A3–0042/94),

A. encouraged by the commitment, contained in Article 128 of the EC Treaty, to the Community contributing to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States while respecting their national and regional diversity;

B. declaring the need for a European linguistic culture and recognising that its scope also includes protection of the linguistic heritage, the overcoming of the language barrier, the promotion of lesser-used languages and the safeguarding of minority languages,

C. encouraged by the process of democratization in central and eastern Europe and in particular by the determination of recently democratized peoples to promote their own languages and cultures,

D. whereas all peoples have the right to respect for their language and culture and must therefore have the necessary legal means to protect and promote them,

E. whereas the linguistic diversity of the European Union is a key element in the Union's cultural wealth,

F. whereas the protection and promotion of the Union's linguistic diversity is a key factor in the creation of a peaceful and democratic Europe,

G. whereas the Community has a responsibility to support the Member States in developing their cultures and protecting national and regional diversity, including the diversity of indigenous regional and minority languages,

H. whereas the Community should encourage action by the Member States in cases where the protection of such languages and cultures is inadequate or non-existent,

I. whereas the Community also has a duty in its relations with the governments of associated and third countries to draw attention to the rights of minorities and, if necessary, to support governments in finding ways of ensuring that these rights are safeguarded; whereas it must also condemn any deliberate denial of these rights,

J. whereas the linguistic diversity of the European Union is a reflection of its cultural diversity and too often goes unrecognised,

K. whereas language is an essential means of communication in the European Union now being created and whereas European integration must make the use of the most widespread languages as a way of communicating across the present internal borders compatible with protecting and safeguarding the less widespread languages in regional or transregional contexts,

L. whereas the minority languages and cultures are also an integral part of the Union's culture and European heritage and whereas, from this point of view, the Community should provide them with legal protection and the appropriate financial resources to this end,

M. whereas many lesser used languages are endangered, with a rapid drop in the number of speakers, and whereas this endangers the well-being of specific population groups and greatly diminishes Europe's creative potential as a whole,

N. whereas, while the duty of every Member State government to protect and promote its official language(s) must be fully respected, it must not be exercised to the detriment of the lesser used languages and the people for whom they are the natural cultural vehicle;

O. whereas, however, the term 'minority languages and cultures' may embrace phenomena of differing characteristics and

Resolution on linguistic and cultural minorities in the European Community

dimensions according to the Member State in question and may be understood as referring to certain languages which are already official in some Member States but which do not receive adequate dissemination or identical status in the neighbouring Member State or another Member State,

1. Calls for the principles and proposals set out in its aforementioned resolutions of 16 October 1981, 11 February 1983 and 30 October 1987 to be fully applied;
2. Points out again the need for Member States to recognise their linguistic minorities and to make the necessary legal and administrative provisions for them to create the basic conditions for the preservation and development of these languages;
3. Believes, furthermore, that all minority languages and cultures should also be protected by appropriate legal statute in the Member States;
4. Considers that this legal statute should at least cover the use and encouragement of such languages and cultures in the spheres of education, justice and public administration, the media, toponymics and other sectors of public and cultural life without prejudice to the use of the most widespread languages, when required to ensure ease of communication within each of the Member States or in the Union as a whole;
5. Points out that the fact that a proportion of the citizens of a state use a language or have a culture which is different from the dominant one in that state or from the dominant one in a part or region of that state should not give rise to discrimination of any kind, or, in particular, to any form of social marginalisation that would impede their access to, or continuance in, employment;
6. Supports the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, accorded the legal form of a European Convention as an effective yet flexible instrument for the protection and promotion of lesser used languages;
7. Calls on the Member State governments which have not yet done so as a matter of urgency to sign and their parliaments to ratify the Convention choosing at all times to apply those paragraphs best suited to the needs and aspirations of the linguistic communities in question;
8. Calls on the Member State governments and on the local and regional authorities to encourage and support specialised associations, in particular the Member State Committees of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages so that the responsibilities of citizens and their organisations for the development of their language can be realised;
9. Urges the Member States and the relevant regions and local authorities to examine the possibility of concluding agreements to create trans-frontier linguistic institutions for any minority languages or cultures existing in two neighbouring countries or in several Member States simultaneously;
10. Calls on the Commission to:

(a) contribute, within its field of competence, to the implementation of the initiatives undertaken by the Member States in this area;
(b) take account of the lesser used languages and their attendant cultures when working out various areas of Community policy, and make equivalent provision for the needs of speakers of lesser used languages, alongside the needs of speakers of majority languages, in all educational and cultural programmes, e.g., YOUTH FOR EUROPE, ERASMUS, TEMPUS, European Dimension, Platform Europe, MEDIA, schemes for the translation of contemporary literary work;
(c) encourage the use of lesser used languages in the Community's audiovisual policy, for instance in respect of High Definition Television and assist lesser used language producers and broadcasters to produce new programmes in 16:9 format;
(d) ensure that modern digital telecommunications technology, which allows for the compressing of satellite and cable broadcast transmissions, is used for carrying a greater number of minority languages;
(e) put in place as quickly as possible a programme inspired by LINGUA for lesser used languages, with use being made of networks which have already been developed in the framework of the activities of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages such as the Mercator education network;
(f) facilitate the immediate publication, after corrections and additions, of the scientific map of lesser used language communities in the EC, prepared by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages;
(g) encourage the publication of the Treaties of the European Communities and other basic provisions and information on the European Community and its activities in the Union's lesser used languages;

11. Calls on the Council and Commission to:

(a) continue their support and encouragement for European organizations representing the lesser used languages, particularly the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, and to provide them with the necessary resources;
(b) ensure that adequate budgetary provision is made for the Community's programmes in favour of lesser used languages and their attendant cultures and propose a multiannual action programme in this field;
(c) take due account of the linguistic and cultural heritage of regions in the development of regional policy and in the allocation of funds from the ERDF by supporting integrated regional development projects which include measures to support regional languages and cultures, as well as in the development of social policy and in the allocation of funds from the ESF;
(d) take due account of the needs of speakers of lesser used languages in

Resolution on linguistic and cultural minorities in the EC

the countries of central and eastern Europe, when developing EC programmes for economic and social reconstruction, and in particular the PHARE programme;

(e) encourage the translation of books and literary works and the subtitling of films between minority languages or into Community languages;

(f) ensure that in encouraging minority languages, the European Community does not do so to the detriment of the main relevant national language and must, in turn, ensure this in no way affects the teaching of that main language in schools;

12. Calls for the languages spoken on overseas territories belonging to the Member States to enjoy the same rights and provisions as mainland languages;

13. In relation to non-territorial autochthonous languages (e.g. the Roma and Sinti languages and Yiddish) calls on all relevant bodies to apply mutatis mutandis the recommendations set out in this resolution;

14. Stresses that the recommendations contained in this resolution are not such as to jeopardise the territorial integrity or public order of the Member States, and furthermore, are not to be interpreted as implying the right to enter into any activity or carry out any action which contravenes the objectives of the United Nations Charter or any other obligation laid down in international law;

15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the central and regional governments of the Member States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations and UNESCO.

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1. OJ C 287, 9.11.1981, p.57
2. OJ C 68, 14.3.1983, p.103
3. OJ C 318, 30.11.1987, p.160
4. OJ C 42, 15.2.1993, p.173

International Conference on "Nations and Languages, and the Building of Europe".

From 7 until 10 November 1994, the *European Studies Graduate Program* of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven will organize an international conference on the development of nations and languages in Europe, and the implications for European unification of linguistic and other nationalisms.

This conference will be explicitly *multidisciplinary*. It is oriented in the first place to historians, sociolinguists, and political scientists, but also constitutionalists, social-psychologists, historical linguists, literary historians, philosophers, etc. are all invited to contribute.

Those wishing to present a paper are requested to send an abstract (not exceeding 2 pages) to the organizers before 30 June. A selection of the papers will be published.

The languages of the conference are Dutch, English and French. Simultaneous translation facilities will be provided. The conference publication, however, will be in English.

For more information please contact:

Lieve Notre, Conference Secretariat, European Studies KUL, Blijde-Inkomststraat 5, B-3000 Leuven (Belgium). tel. 32-16-286611/2482. fax 32-16-222345

FUTURE EVENTS

International Colloquy

Developing a Europe of the Regions: Regional Languages and Transborder Relations: Strasbourg/Colmar 1-3 June 1994. Further information available from Prof. Andre-Louis Sanguin, Dep. de Géographie, Univ. d'Angers, 35 rue de la Barre, F-49000 Angers, France.

First Educational Euroregional Conference

31 May-01 June, Lille, France. This conference, organised by the Regional Association for Multicultural Youth Education in Lille, will concentrate on working guidelines for the setting up of an international educational network with particular emphasis on cross-regional cooperation in the field of education. Further information available from Denise Segard, ARPEIJ, Conseil Regional Region Nord-Pas de Calais, 1 rue du Palais-de-Justice, F-59800 Lille, France.

9th Occitan Festival

on the theme of "Provence" will take place on 17 July next in Monclar de Luerney (Tarn et Garonne). Events will include a books fair, exhibition of local produce, stands of various cultural organisations and an exhibition on "Tourism in Occitania". Further information available from: Robert Linas, Président du Réveil Occitan de Tarn et Garonne, Ancien Collège, F-82000 Montauban.

35th Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

Gdansk, Poland, 11-15 May 1994. The registration form for this conference is now available from Armin Nickelsen, FUEN General Secretary, Schiffbrücke 41, D-24939 Flensburg, Germany.

Manx Gaelic Summer Courses
Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man, 01-12 August 1994. Further information from: Dr. Brian Stowell, Manx Language Officer, Dept. of Education, Government Offices, Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas IM1 2QF, Isle of Man.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE DECLARES SUPPORT FOR MINORITIES

In the first week of October 1993, Vienna played host to a truly historical gathering – the first ever summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the member states of the Council of Europe.

Considering that the Council of Europe now comprises no fewer than 32 member states it is very encouraging that such a high degree of agreement could have been achieved. On 8 October 1993, the Summit issued a declaration which in tone and content was very positive almost throughout. The general theme of the document was the promotion of peace, goodwill and cooperation among the member states, the defence of human rights, the combatting of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance, and also the protection of national minorities.

Among the practical measures agreed was improving the effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights by establishing a single court for assuring compliance by undertakings given. [There have been more and more complaints in recent years that cases taken to the European Court of Human Rights have taken years to be decided upon].

It was furthermore decided to enhance democracy by transforming the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities to a congress having two chambers – one for regional authorities and one for local authorities.

Appendix II of the declaration refers to National Minorities and is published in this edition of **Contact -Bulletin**.

Among the practical measures decided is one to draft with minimum delay a framework convention specifying the principles which contracting States commit themselves to respect, in order to assure the protection of national minorities. This instrument would also be open for signature by non-member states. Another is to begin work on drafting a protocol complementing the European Convention on Human Rights in the cultural field by provisions guaranteeing individual rights, in particular for persons belonging to national minorities.

The Summit also declared its intention to pursue the close cooperation engaged between the Council of Europe and the CSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities.

The Bureau's Secretary General, Dónall Ó Riagáin, declared himself quite satisfied with the outcome of the Summit. *"Like a lot of other people, I was disappointed but not surprised at the decision of the Summit not to act on the initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to add a protocol to the Human Rights Convention on the rights of national, linguistic and religious minorities. Over the past year we have heard of opposition to this initiative and I am informed that the proposal also had run into technical and legal difficulties.*

"The idea of adding a protocol, completing the European Convention on Human Rights in the cultural field by provisions guaranteeing individual rights, in particular for persons belonging to national minorities, is a very attractive proposal. The idea of having a framework convention specifying the principles which contracting States commit themselves to respect, in order to assure the protection of national minorities, is in some respects even more exciting.

"What worries me is that no definition is given of a 'national minority'. There may be clear undisputed instances of national minorities in central and eastern Europe (e.g. the Hungarian minority in Transylvania, the Slovenian minority in Austria) but I would love to know if France will recognise the existence of a Breton nation or Spain a Basque nation. I think it is imperative that this whole matter be speedily clarified or the process could become discredited.

"I am very impressed by the alacrity with which the Council of Europe is addressing the tasks it has undertaken. My understanding is that a first draft of the Convention on Minority Rights may be ready as early as June 94 and the protocol on cultural provisions to be added to the Human Rights Convention by the end of this year. The Permanent Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) intends to hold a very important conference on Federalism, Regionalism, Local Autonomy and Minorities in Merano, probably in early Autumn. The Council has also indicated interest in collaborating with the Bureau in organising a conference on regional or minority languages.

"Also encouraging is the fact that cooperation with the CSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities is underscored. Too often, I have had the feeling that in their work for minorities and for lesser used languages the institutions of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the CSCE, the UN and other bodies have been going in the same general direction but running on parallel tracks. More coordination and cooperation can only be to the benefit of all".

Proposal for official document – National Minorities (Council of Europe Summit – Vienna Declaration, October 1993)

We, Heads of State and Government of the member states of the Council of Europe, have agreed as follows, concerning the protection of national minorities:

> The national minorities which the upheavals of history have established in Europe should be protected and respected so that they can contribute to stability and peace.
>
> In this Europe which we wish to build, we must respond to this challenge: assuring the protection of the rights of persons belonging

to national minorities within the rule of law, respecting the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of States. On these conditions, these minorities will make a valuable contribution to the life of our societies.

The creation of a climate of tolerance and dialogue is necessary for the participation of all in political life. In this regard an important contribution should be made by regional and local authorities.

In their actions, States should ensure the respect of the principles which are fundamental to our common European tradition: equality before the law, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, freedom of association and assembly as well as to participate actively in public life.

States should create the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to develop their culture, while preserving their religion, traditions and customs. These persons must be able to use their language both in private and in public and should be able to use it, under certain conditions, in their relations with the public authorities.

We stress the importance which bilateral agreements between States, aimed at assuring the protection of the national minorities concerned, can have for stability and peace in Europe.

We confirm our determination to implement fully the commitments concerning the protection of national minorities contained in the Copenhagen and other documents of the CSCE.

Having regard to its fundamental vocation, the Council of Europe is particularly well placed to contribute to the settlement of problems of national minorities. In this connection, we intend to pursue the close co-operation engaged between the Council of Europe and the CSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities.

In consequence, we decide to instruct the Committee of Ministers:

- to draw up confidence building measures aimed at increasing tolerance and understanding among peoples;
- to repond to requests for assistance for the negotiation and implementation of treaties on questions concerning national minorities as well as agreements on transfrontier co-operation;
- to draft with minimum delay a framework convention specifying the principles which contracting States commit themselves to repect, in order to assure the protection of national minorities. This instrument would also be open for signature by non-member States;
- to begin work on drafting a protocol complementing the European Convention on Human Rights in the cultural field by provisions guaranteeing individual rights, in particular for persons belonging to national minorities.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

On Fièsse lès Sints – A short collection of poems written in Caroloregian Walloon dedicated to various religious feasts throughout the year. The first few pages of the collection offer the reader a brief description of West Walloon while at the end a brief biographical note is provided on each of the 27 contributors. This particular collection of poetry is the third of a series; the first two concentrating on Christmas and Easter respectively. 100 pages, published by El Lourdon, Jean Luc Fauconnier, rue de Namur 600, B-6200 Châtelet, Belgium.

Mercator-Education – This year Mercator-Education prepares the third edition of an overview of language courses, mainly summer courses, for learners of minority languages. The overview will consist of some 30-35 courses, which are organised this year. At the end of March, the leaflet will be distributed to some 300 people who have shown interest in these courses. Probably, there are also readers of Contact Bulletin who wish to receive this information. Free copies available from: Mercator-Education, Doelestrjitte 8, 8911 DX Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, The Netherlands.

Chimères Douces Amères d'une Occitanie disparue – René Eucher: A collection of 9 short tales written in French on a mythical lost Occitan country. 133 pages. Published by Roseau Nigremontaoin Pensant, F-23500 Saint Georges de Nigremont, France, ISBN 2-9503436-0-0.

Kolibri Kolibri – A 144 page collection of tales (with color illustrations) for children in Luxemburgish. Many of the stories have been translated to Luxemburgish from other languages and through this book the young reader is introduced to the traditions and folklores of other cultures. Published by ASTI Lëtzebuerg, ISBN 2-9599978-0-8.

Ecrire le gallo – A.J.Raude: A 66 page description of Gallo, a lesser used Romance language of Brittany, containing detailed descriptions of orthography, pronounciation and general problems specifically related to this language. Price 8 FF, available from Bertaeyn Galeizz, 16 rue Penhoët, F-35065 Rennes cedex, Brittany; ISBN 2-910369-00-5.

Langues, dialectes et écritures: les langues romanes de la France – Hervé Guillorel and Jean Sibille: Published proceedings of the conference held on Minority Romance Languages in France, 16-18 April 1992 at the University of Paris V-Nanterre. This collection of papers deals with three main questions: problems involving the status of various languages, analyses of social reality, and the problems of linguistic normalisation. Price: 150 FF; ISBN 2-85910-155-1.

The European Bureau for Lesser Used languages

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Readers of Contact Bulletin over the past 10 years will be very familiar with developments in the field of lesser used languages throughout the European Union and the major role played by the European Bureau for Lesser used Languages in this domain. The European Bureau will become even more active in promoting and defending the lesser used/regional/minority languages spoken daily by between 40 to 50 million EU citizens in the years ahead. Through political lobbying and the implementation of practical work programmes speakers of these languages which are an integral part of the EU's cultural heritage are no longer being ignored. Considerable changes have taken place in the field of our languages and the Bureau aims to ensure that this continue to be the case.

Dónall Ó Riagáin
Secretary General

With a total staff of 10 working daily from offices in Dublin, Brussels and Luxembourg and with the kind assistance of various bodies and governments (see back page) the Bureau follows four main strategies in the pursuance of its general aim: it seeks legal and political support for our languages (see Killilea p.1), it facilites the exchange of information and experiences among lesser used language activists, seeks financial assistance and finally puts in place structures that provide ongoing support for projects involving our languages. Furthermore it has committees in 10 of the EU's member states broadly representative of the various lesser used language communities and the principal organisations, both official and voluntary, working for their maintenance and promotion.

PUBLICITY

The collection and dissemination of information on our languages is one of the Bureau's main preoccupations. Since 1984 the Bureau has been publishing three times a year a newsletter CONTACT BULLETIN in French, Italian and English, and since Spring 1990, in German. This newsletter provides readers with news of activities throughout the European Union and further afield and publishes, in the form of supplements, texts of major resolutions and political texts concerning our languages. It is distributed worldwide free of charge and is a useful source of reference material. Other publicity material produced includes campaign posters for conferences and public events, press releases, handbooks, and videos which describe the Bureau's activities.

STUDY VISIT PROGRAMME

Since 1983 over 550 lesser used language speakers have taken part in approximately 70 study visits to regions where our languages are spoken. Seven of these visits are organised throughout the academic year by the Bureau in conjunction with the European Commission. The programme offers those from lesser used language areas the welcome opportunity to examine at first hand the educational, cultural, media and administrative structures in another lesser used language area. The week long programme comprises meetings to schools, local authorities, the business community, journalists and historical sites. Visits during 1994/95 will take place to the following communities: Arvinite and Aroumanian communities in Greece, Ladin community (Italy), Catalonia and Basque Country in Spain, Alsace (France), Corsica, Val d'Aosta and Ireland. An information note is published each Spring by the EU Commission and copies are now available for 1994-95 from any of the Bureau's addresses on the back page.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Advances made in the European Parliament and the Council of Europe are largely due to direct lobbying by the Bureau. One of the most important results of such lobbying was the establishment in 1983 of a special budget line for lesser used languages. The budget line which was worth 100,000 ECU in 1983 has now increased to 3.5 million ECU. In the coming years the Bureau with the help of its member state committees will be strongly lobbying for further increases in this budget line. Projects funded from this line are of practical benefit to our languages: e.g. education, publishing, film making, theatre, music, information, dataprocessing etc. The Bureau is consulted by the Commission on a regular basis when evaluating those projects which will receive funding. Reports describing the funding of projects between 1983 and 1989 are available from the Bureau. A report describing activities during the period 1989 to 1993 will be published by the Bureau later this year.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Another major event in the history of our languages was the voting by a large majority in the Council of Europe to accord the legal form of a convention to the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (v.CB 9.2). The Bureau was involved in this process from the very beginning: as far back as 1984 two Bureau members participated in the Committee of Experts established by the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe to prepare a draft European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Dónall Ó Riagáin, Bureau Secretary General was consulted during the final stages of the drafting process and was further invited as observer delegate, to speak without voting rights, on an expert ad hoc committee which was set up by the Committee of Ministers to examine the document. As a result of this there now exists for the first time an international legal instrument of protection for lesser used languages.

COMPUTERISED INFORMATION NETWORK

Another of the Bureau's aims is the creation of structures which provide ongoing support for lesser used language communities, e.g.MERCATOR, Children's Publishing Secretariat, Evrošola.

A concept originally developed in 1987, MERCATOR is intended to gather information on our languages and store it electronically and make it accessible to the public at large (c.special Mercator supplement CB 9.3).

The four centres are Wales–Media, Friesland–Education, Paris–General Studies, and Barcelona–Law and Legislation. In 1991 the Bureau was asked by the Commission to be the coordinator from 1992. Each centre has developed its own procedures for gathering data and information that is now available to researchers, policy planners and the general public. This year the Bureau will ascertain the benefits of linking up 4 centres electronically and in the future allow the public general access through computer links.

CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING SECRETARIAT

Back in 1987 the Bureau was involved in a European Conference of minority language publishers of Children's books in the Western Isles of Scotland (v CB 4.3). One of the practical results of this conference was the setting up of a small secretariat to strengthen and coordinate links between various lesser used language publishers in an effort to copublish and have more books in lesser used languages for children. Now, with the kind assistance of the Mairie of Kemper, the Secretariat has recently moved to Kemper, Brittany, and assists publishers in producing children's books in lesser used languages and in doing so distributing information on these languages themselves. Publishers will receive a bulletin "Books for Children" (which includes offers for copublishing in addition to other useful information) and an express liaison service responding to requests to find co-publishers for specific offers within the shortest time possible has just been set up.

EVROŠOLA

This biennial gathering of primary school children who receive their education through the medium of a lesser used language will take place in Spring 1995 in the Slovene area of Italy from 19-23 April 1995. Over a period of a few days children and teachers and parents from all lesser used language communities will come together and participate in games, sporting events, and will visit schools in the region. Each evening cultural events will be organized reflecting local traditions and children will have an opportunity of more direct contact with their Slovene hosts as they will be staying with local families during their stay.

YOUTH

Following on from the establishment of a youth structure at the youth conference organised by the Bureau last year in Catalonia, close links are now being established and developed between lesser used language youth organisations. It is hoped that this new structure within the Bureau will establish close links which will encourage exchanges

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between young lesser used language speakers and assist them in maintaining and using their languages by availing more of existing European youth programmes.

MEDIA

This year will also see the implementation by the Bureau of recommendations made at another conference organised by it in Galicia last Autumn of coproduction of television programmes in lesser used languages. Work is already under way in coordinating and establishing contacts between independent television production companies and broadcasting companies in the coproduction of programmes in lesser used languages. A small committee will be established and will prepare a report before September next on the establishment of a structure to develop and facilitate contact between broadcasters and producers so as to encourage the pooling of resources to increase the production of programmes in lesser used languages.

In addition to the above the Bureau will shortly be producing a general booklet on television services in lesser used languages which will include recommendations aimed at broadcasters and producers alike.

EDUCATION

Within the most important field of education an expert committee will be established shortly to advise the Bureau on the practical implementation of its education policy which was devised last year. A small education secretariat has recently been set up in Luxembourg and all activity in this field will be carried out from these offices which have been kindly provided free of charge by the Luxembourg national Ministry of Education.

Following the success of the publication The Sound of Europe (CB 10.1) last year, a booklet for parents on the advantages of multilingual education, a video will be produced in French and English on the same subject. It will aim to convince parents of the benefits of having their child educated multilingually in a multilingual community.

BRUSSELS INFORMATION CENTRE

The establishment of a documentation centre and the dissemination of information remain the core activities of the Bureau's Brussels Information Centre and in the coming year, in addition to its other activities, it will be presenting a programme of cultural activities from lesser used language regions in Brussels. A meeting will be convened of cultural workers to provide ideas and guidelines on how best to present the rich diversity of regional cultures and to organise one or more cultural events in Brussels to draw attention to our regions. The following will be published: the production of the first volume of a well designed information brochure on EU lesser used language regions, an A-Z glossary for the specialised public into the complex world of our languages within the European dimension, a general brochure in Italian and German on bilingual education and a general brochure in Irish and Dutch (French, English, Italian and German versions are already available) on the EU, the Bureau and its work.

Anyone seeking further information on the Bureau, its aims and activities need only write to any of our addresses on the back page.

D. Breathnach

Brussels

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NEW LADIN LAW

On 3.12.93 the Italian government approved a decree protecting the Ladins in the province of Trent. The power to approve such a decree is vested in the government rather than in parliament by the Autonomy Statute of the region of Trentino-South Tyrol. The Ladins in Trent thus now enjoy statutory protection which, however, is less than the protection afforded to the Ladins in the province of Bolzano.

The new decree contains 5 articles. The first concerns the use of the Ladin language and provides that citizens belonging to the Ladin population of the province of Trent have the right to use their own language in oral and written dealings with educational establishments and the offices in Ladin areas of the State, the Region, the Province and local authorities and agencies appertaining to them and offices of the Region and the Province which only perform functions in the interest of the Ladin population, even if situated outside the areas referred to. The armed forces and the police are excluded from the State offices. The decree further provides that the offices in question must respond orally in Ladin or in writing in Italian, as the official text, followed by the text in Ladin. Public documents issued by the offices and administrations referred to above which are specifically addressed to the populations of the Ladin areas shall be in Italian, followed by the text in Ladin. Article 1 finally provides that, at meetings of local elected bodies in the Ladin areas of the province of Trent, members may speak in Ladin with, if requested, an immediate translation into Italian if there are members of such bodies who declare that they do not understand Ladin. Minutes may be drawn up in either Italian or Ladin.

Article 2 deals with schools and provides that in Ladin areas, for compulsory schooling purposes Ladin language and culture will be mandatory subjects. In higher secondary schools the relevant bodies will authorise the introduction of courses in Ladin language and culture, at the request of an appropriate number of students or their parents. In all schools Ladin may be used as a medium of teaching, including for purposes of promoting and inculcating knowledge of Ladin culture, in accordance with rules laid down by school authorities. As to staff, the decree refers to an "absolute priority" for transfers to the Ladin areas of staff with knowledge of the Ladin language.

Article 3 deals with the operation of public offices and provides that staff with knowledge of the Ladin language can be transferred to Ladin areas with "absolute priority" and sets up a Committee to ascertain linguistic ability.

Article 4 provides that any census of the population of the whole country will contain questions to ascertain the size and geographical distribution of Ladin-speakers resident in Trent province with the first such survey to be carried out within 2 years. Article 5, finally, lists the municipalities classed as Ladin areas.

The new decree partly removes the inequality between 2 groups of the Ladin minority, but the minority itself has already voiced a number of criticisms and reservations. The Ladin Autonomist Union, in a document approved on 19.12.93, first and foremost pointed out that, despite continual requests, the text remained top secret right to the end and that once again the community concerned has been confronted with a fait accompli. Perhaps if the Ladins themselves had been involved to a greater extent the law would have been formulated more clearly and effectively.

According to the Ladins, the article dealing with schooling is totally unsatisfactory in the way it addresses the question of "absolute priority" for recruitment of staff. This so-called "absolute priority" refers only to the *assignment and not the appointment* of teachers: this idea, which was already used in an earlier formulation relating to permanent staff, has surprisingly been extended to temporary posts and supply teachers. In practice the provision would have little impact because the cases to which it would apply are statistically negligible in terms of training a stable and qualified corps of teachers. Of even greater concern is the fact that such an odd interpretation of the principle of "absolute priority" could have a negative bearing on any law concerning personnel, for example, the provincial regulations governing nursery schools.

According to the Ladins, the wholly "relative" concept of "absolute priority" also applies to the recruitment of personnel to the public administration and is completely ineffective in relation to competitions for permanent staff.

As regards the use of the language in public administration, there is not a single word about the resources required for such innovations as who will provide the translation service, who will supply the technical and linguistic equipment, who will train the staff, pay for additional work, etc., given that the provisions on the recruitment of staff are inadequate to ensure that they are qualified? Finally, the provision regarding a survey of the minority within 2 years is superfluous. Moreover, a census covering only Val di Fassa would leave out the Ladins living in the rest of the province of Trent and would therefore be discriminatory and unacceptable, according to the Ladin Autonomist Union.

Bojan Brezigar

ENCOURAGING BUSINESS THROUGH LESSER USED LANGUAGES

Euroblas, unveiled simultaneously in Inverness, Dublin and Brussels, will reward firms who develop the use and promotion of autochthonous languages through commercial and economic activities.

The initiative is being taken in Scotland by Gaelic development agency Comunn na Gaidhlig and in Ireland by Údarás na Gaeltachta and Bord na Gaeilge, and it is expected several other countries will join the project next year. Ultimately the event should involve the majority of Europe's lesser used autochthonous languages.

Supported by the EU and the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Euroblas (blas means taste or flavour in Gaelic) has twin aims. Firstly to encourage the use of autochthonous languages in the business dealings of companies located in areas where the languages are spoken. This includes using the language in the workplace and in communication with their communities, including advertising.

Secondly it seeks to promote business opportunities through the development of partnerships between participating companies.

This year separate competitions will be held in Scotland and Ireland in four categories – companies with up to 20 employees, all other companies, co-operatives and craft or tourism centres.

Firms will produce a plan of how they intend using the autochthonous language in their business dealings and will then be judged on how much they have progressed with that plan during the year and the benefits gained from it.

Each country will select category winners who will go forward to the international awards to be hosted by a different country each year. The first international awards will be held in Galway next March and will move to Scotland in 1996.

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An Biúró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana
le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues

CONTACT BULLETIN

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1 ECU

Le Parlement européen réaffirme son soutien pour nos langues

Nombre de suffrages : 325 – pour : 318 – contre : 1 – abstentions : 6; voilà ce qu'on pouvait lire sur le tableau d'affichage électronique au fond de la tribune dans l'hémicycle du Palais de l'Europe à Strasbourg lorsque le Parlement européen, le 9 février 1994, a adopté avec une majorité écrasante le Rapport Killilea.

Mark Killilea, MPE

Le rapport a eu une longue période de gestation. A la suite d'une proposition faite par John Hume, MPE [S, Irlande du Nord], en 1990, la Commission parlementaire de la culture, de la jeunesse, de l'éducation et des médias a chargé un membre irlandais, Mark Killilea [RDE], de préparer un nouveau rapport sur les langues moins répandues de la Communauté. M. Killilea a demandé et obtenu l'aide et l'appui du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues et sur les conseils de celui-ci le rapporteur a nommé Ricarda Jenniges comme assistante et chargée de recherches. Un questionnaire sur la position de chaque communauté linguistique fut tout d'abord envoyé aux gouvernements des Etats membres et par la suite aux gouvernements régionaux, pouvoirs locaux, instituts de recherche, associations linguistiques etc. Le résultat est un document bien étudié et très étoffé.

Au cours de la préparation du rapport et même pendant qu'il était examiné en détail par la Commission parlementaire, le Conseil de l'Europe a conféré la forme juridique d'une convention à la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires (voir CB, Vol.9, no.2). M. Killikea a alors décidé d'abréger son projet de proposition de résolution, omettant certaines propositions très détaillées que la Charte couvrait plus que suffisamment et a apporté à la place tout son appui à la Charte. Dans le paragraphe 6, le Parlement soutient la Charte " en tant qu'instrument à la fois efficace et souple de protection et de promotion des langues de moindre diffusion" et, au paragraphe suivant, "invite les gouvernements des Etats membres qui ne l'ont pas encore fait à signer et leurs parlements à ratifier d'urgence cette convention, en choisissant à tout moment d'appliquer les paragraphes qui répondent le mieux aux besoins et aux aspirations des communautés linguistiques concernées".

Faisant spécifiquement mention d'un certain nombre de programmes éducatifs et culturels [ex: Jeunesse pour l'Europe, ERASMUS, Kaléidoscope, Médias], la résolution invite la Commission à tenir compte des langues moins répandues et des cultures qu'elles reflètent lorsqu'elle définit certaines politiques communautaires et à prendre les dispositions nécessaires pour répondre aux besoins de ceux qui les utilisent.

En ce qui concerne la question des médias électroniques, le rapport invite la Commission à "encourager l'usage des langues de moindre diffusion dans la politique audiovisuelle de la Communauté, par exemple dans le contexte de la télévision haute-définition, ainsi qu'à aider les producteurs et les responsables de la diffusion dans des langues moins répandues à réaliser de nouveaux programmes". De plus, il invite la Commission à " faire en sorte que la technologie moderne des télécommunications numériques, qui permet de densifier les transmissions par satellite et par câble, serve à diffuser un plus grand nombre de langues minoritaires".

Une autre recommandation très

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spécifique, concernant l'enseignement des langues celle-là, invite la Commission à mettre en place dans les meilleurs délais un programme inspiré de Lingua en faveur des langues moins répandues.

Il invite également le Conseil et la Commission à "tenir dûment compte de l'héritage linguistique et culturel des régions dans l'élaboration de la politique régionale et dans l'attribution des ressources du Fonds européen de développement régional, en soutenant des projets de développement régional intégré comportant des mesures visant à soutenir les langues et les cultures régionales, ainsi que dans l'élaboration de la politique sociale et dans l'attribution des ressources du FSE".

Le Bureau lui-même est mentionné dans un certain nombre d'articles. La résolution invite les gouvernements des Etats membres ainsi que les autorités locales et régionales à encourager et à soutenir les associations spécialisées et notamment les comités nationaux du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues et à leur accorder les ressources nécessaires".

Le rapport a donné lieu à un débat animé et très positif. Le 8 février, pas moins de 24 députés du Parlement européen ainsi que le Commissaire Pinheiro ont pris la parole à son sujet. Préalablement au vote, dix-huit autres députés ont donné des "explications de vote" écrites ou verbales. Bon nombre de ces contributeurs étaient des partisans de longue date et de confiance de nos langues, tels que Joachim Dalsass [PPE, Tyrol Sud], Yves Frémion [V, Occitanie], Gasòliba i Böhm [LDR, Catalogne], Barrera I Costa [Alliance libre européenne, Catalogne], Alexander Langer [V, Tyrol Sud], Max Simeoni [Alliance libre européenne, Corse], John Hume [S, Irlande du Nord], Winnie Ewing [Alliance libre européenne, Ecosse], T.J. Maher [LDR, Irlande], Nicole Pery [S, Basque] et Giorgio Rossetti [S, Trieste].

Mark Killilea a donné trois raisons pour la préparation d'un autre rapport sur les langues moins répandues: la résurgence de petites nations et de communautés réprimées en Europe centrale et de l'Est, presque toutes en quête de droits linguistiques et culturels; l'adoption du traité de Maastricht qui a reconnu pour la première fois la diversité linguistique et culturelle de l'UE; et l'adoption par le Conseil de l'Europe de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires et sa signature par treize démocraties européennes.

Reconnaissant le soutien qu'il avait reçu au cours de la préparation de son rapport, M. Killilea a dit: "...Mais ce qui m'a le plus encouragé, c'est l'appui que m'ont offert les locuteurs des langues moins répandues eux-mêmes et surtout ceux qui travaillent pour elles. Leur enthousiasme et leur confiance en nous m'ont profondément touché. Depuis 1981, date à laquelle ils ont obtenu pour la première fois un soutien modeste de la Communauté européenne, grâce au Rapport Arfé, ils ont fait d'énormes progrès, coordonnés et inspirés par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues qui a été établi sous l'égide de ce Parlement. Ils ont mis en place toute une gamme d'activités dont ils peuvent légitimement être fiers. J'apprécie pleinement ces développements. Ils n'ont pas trahi la confiance que nous avions placée en eux. Qu'avons-nous à leur dire aujourd'hui? Après avoir été victimes de discrimination, de marginalisation et d'aliénation, pendant des siècles dans la plupart des cas, les locuteurs des langues régionales et minoritaires de l'Europe sont en train de trouver la place qui leur est due dans la formation d'une Europe des peuples, de tous ses peuples".

Autre caractéristique notable de ce débat: pour la toute première fois, un discours a été fait entièrement en irlandais. L'intervenant était Pat Cox [LDR, Irlande]. Il est possible d'utiliser l'irlandais au Parlement à condition de prévenir à l'avance le service de traduction. D'autre part, quelques phrases ont été prononcées en catalan, en basque et en gallois, sans l'agrément officiel du Président. Elles apparaissent néanmoins dans le compte rendu textuel des actes !

Ce qui est très surprenant à propos de ce vote, à part l'énormité de la majorité en faveur du rapport et le fait qu'aucun amendement n'a été présenté lors de la session plénière, c'est le fait que le rapport a obtenu le soutien de tout l'éventail politique, du Groupe des droites européennes à celui de la Coalition des Gauches et aux Non inscrits, anciennement Communistes. Le seul à voter négativement a été Léon Schwartzenberg, un socialiste français. Probablement en raison d'une défaillance technique, cinq seulement sur les six abstentions figuraient sur le compte rendu imprimé des suffrages. Trois des personnes qui se sont abstenues, M. Benoit, Mme Buron et Mme Mebrak-Zaidi, sont également des socialistes français. Les autres sont M. Kellett-Bowman, un conservateur anglais et Sig. Laroni, un socialiste italien. Parmi les opposants, seul M. Schwartzenberg a pris la parole. Il a dit que bien qu'il accepte l'enseignement de telles langues par respect des traditions familiales ou régionales, il ne pouvait pas accepter que des documents officiels ou administratifs soient disponibles en des langues autres que la langue nationale. Il craignait que cela mette en danger l'unité de chaque nation et a ajouté que nous devrions essayer de nous débarrasser des frontières et non d'en créer de nouvelles.

Dónall Ó Riagáin, Secrétaire Général du Bureau , s'est prononcé absolument ravi du résultat. "Cela fait partie d'un processus historique", a-t-il dit. "L'adoption du rapport Killilea doit être considérée dans le contexte de l'adoption du Rapport Arfé en 1981, du Rapport Kuijpers en 1983 et de la décision du Conseil de l'Europe en 1992 de transformer en Convention la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires. Ce processus conduit inexorablement vers la construction d'une nouvelle Europe dans laquelle la diversité linguistique et culturelle sera respectée.

La taille de la majorité ne doit toutefois pas nous faire oublier que le rapport avait suscité une ferme opposition à divers stades. Au stade de la commission, des efforts avaient été faits pour le faire complètement dérailler et le lundi même de la session plénière on s'efforçait encore de faire renvoyer le rapport devant la commission, probablement dans l'espoir qu'il ne réapparaitrait jamais devant une session plénière du Parlement actuel. Trop souvent par le passé, nos adversaires nous ont battus. Cette fois, nous les avons devancés. Le Bureau et ses alliés peuvent être fiers d'avoir construit un réseau efficace d'amis au Parlement et d'avoir développé un appareil de lobby de premier ordre. Il est indéniable qu'une majorité de 98% est un triomphe.

J'applaudis chaudement M. Killilea et tous ceux qui ont collaboré avec lui. Que notre victoire en pareille occasion nous inspire des succès encore plus grands à l'avenir".

MINORITÉS LINGUISTIQUES ET CULTURELLES – A3-0042/94

Résolution sur les minorités linguistiques et culturelles dans l'Union européenne

Le Parlement européen,

- vu sa résolution du 16 octobre 1981, sur une Charte communautaire des langues et cultures régionales et sur une Charte des droits des minorités ethniques (1),
- vu sa résolution du 11 février 1983, sur des mesures en faveur des langues et des cultures minoritaires (2),
- vu sa résolution du 30 octobre 1987, sur les langues et cultures des minorités régionales et ethniques de la Communauté européenne (3),
- vu sa résolution du 21 janvier 1993 sur la communication de la Commission au Conseil, au Parlement européen et au Comité économique et social sur les nouvelles perspectives pour l'action de la Communauté dans le domaine culturel (4),
- vu les propositions de résolution de
  - M. Hume et autres sur les langues minoritaires (B3-0016/90),
  - M. Gangoiti Llaguno sur la promotion et l'utilisation des langues régionales et/ou minoritaires (B3-2113/90),
  - M. Bandrés Molet sur la concession d'autorisations d'émettre aux stations de radio de langue basque (B3-0523/91),
  - Mme van Hemeldonck sur la signature de la Charte européenne des langues régionales et minoritaires (B3-1351/92),
- vu la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires, à laquelle le Conseil de l'Europe a conféré la forme juridique d'une convention européenne et ouverte à la signature le 5 novembre 1992,
- vu le document final de la Conférence de la CSCE à Copenhague consacré à la dimension humaine de la CSCE (5-29 juin 1990) et, tout particulièrement, le chapitre IV de ce document,
- vu la Charte de Paris pour une nouvelle Europe (CSCE) adoptée à Paris le 21 novembre 1991,
- vu l'article 148 de son règlement,
- vu le rapport de la commission de la culture, de la jeunesse, de l'éducation et des médias et l'avis de la commission juridique et des droits des citoyens (A3-0042/94),

A. encouragé par l'engagement pris à l'article 128 du traité CE de voir la Communaute contribuer à l'épanouissement des cultures des États membres dans le respect de leur diversité nationale et régionale,

B. affirmant qu'il faut promouvoir une culture linguistique européenne et reconnaissant que de ce large cadre doivent relever notamment la défense du patrimoine linguistique, l'élimination des entraves linguistiques, la promotion des langues de moindre diffusion et la sauvegarde des langues minoritaires,

C. encouragé par le processus de démocratisation en Europe centrale et orientale et, tout particulièrement, par la détermination dont font preuve les peuples récemment démocratisés pour promouvoir leurs langues et leur cultures,

D. considérant que chaque peuple a droit au respect de sa langue et de sa culture et doit par conséquent pouvoir disposer des moyens légaux de les protéger et de les promouvoir,

E. considérant que la diversité linguistique de l'Union constitue un élément-clé de sa richesse culturelle,

F. considérant que la protection et la promotion de la diversité linguistique de l'Union constituent un facteur-clé de la réalisation d'une Europe pacifique et démocratique,

G. considérant qu'il relève de la responsabilité de l'Union européenne de soutenir les États membres dans les efforts qu'ils déploient pour assurer l'essor de leurs cultures et préserver leurs spécificités nationales et régionales auxquelles ressortit notamment la spécificité des langues régionales et minoritaires autochtones,

H. estimant que l'Union devrait encourager l'action des États membres dans lesquels la protection des langues et cultures minoritaires est insuffisante ou inexistante,

I. considérant que l'Union a également le devoir, dans ses relations avec les gouvernements de pays associés et des pays tiers, de mettre l'accent sur les droits des minorités, d'assister, le cas échéant, ces gouvernements dans la recherche de moyens de faire valoir ces droits, mais aussi de les réprimander lorsqu'ils négligent délibérément ces droits,

J. considérant que la diversité linguistique de l'Union est le reflet de sa diversité culturelle et qu'elle demeure trop souvent non reconnue,

K. soulignant que la langue constitue un instrument essentiel de communication dans le cadre de l'Union européenne actuellement en voie de formation, et que la construction européenne doit rendre compatible l'utilisation des langues de plus grande diffusion à des fins de communication à travers les frontières intérieures actuelles avec la protection et la défense des langues de moindre diffusion à l'échelle régionale ou transrégionale,

L. considérant que les langues et cultures de moindre diffusion font également partie de la culture et du patrimoine européens de l'Union et que, en conséquence, elle se doit de leur assurer une protection juridique et leur garantir les moyens financiers de cette protection,

M. considérant que bien des langues de moindre diffusion sont menacées du fait d'une diminution rapide du nombre de leurs usagers, et que ce phénomène menace le bien-être de groupes de population spécifiques, tout en diminuant sensiblement le potentiel créatif de l'Europe dans son ensemble,

N. considérant que si le devoir de chacun des gouvernements des États membres de protéger et de promouvoir sa (ses) langue(s) officielle(s), doit être pleinement respecté, il ne peut s'exercer au détriment des langues de moindre diffusion et des populations dont elles constituent le vecteur culturel naturel,

O. observant, toutefois, que les termes "langues et cultures de moindre diffusion" couvriraient des phénomènes dont les caractéristiques et l'ampleur varient d'un État à l'autre si on les appliquait à certaines langues qui, tout en étant déjà officielles dans certains États

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membres, ne bénéficient pas de la diffusion voulue ou du même statut que celui dont elles jouissent dans l'État membre voisin ou dans un autre État membre,

1.demande que les principes et les propositions des résolutions précitées des 16 octobre 1981, 11 février 1983 et 30 octobre 1987 soient pleinement appliqués;
2.souligne une nouvelle fois la nécessité, pour les États membres, de reconnaître leurs minorités linguistiques et d'adopter les dispositions juridiques et administratives requises afin de mettre en place les conditions voulues pour préserver et développer ces langues;
3.est également d'avis que toutes les langues et cultures moins répandues devraient, en outre, bénéficier dans les États membres d'un statut légal approprié;
4.estime que ce statut devrait au moins supposer l'utilisation et le développement de ces langues et cultures au niveau de l'enseignement, de la justice, de l'administration publique, des médias, de la toponymie et des autres secteurs de la vie publique et culturelle sans porter préjudice à l'utilisation des langues de grande diffusion lorsque cela facilite la communication à l'intérieur de chacun des États membres et l'Union dans son ensemble;
5.précise que le fait, pour une partie des ressortissants d'un État, de parler une langue et d'avoir une culture différentes de celle qui prédomine dans l'État ou dans une partie ou région de cet État ne doit donner lieu à aucune discrimination et, en particulier, à aucun type de marginalisation sociale qui puisse entraver l'accès à l'emploi ou le maintien dans un emploi;
6.soutient la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires, à laquelle a été conférée la forme juridique d'une convention européenne, en tant qu'instrument à la fois efficace et souple de protection et de promotion des langues de moindre diffusion;
7.invite les gouvernements des États membres qui ne l'ont pas encore fait à signer et leurs parlements à ratifier d'urgence cette convention, en choisissant à tout moment d'appliquer les paragraphes qui répondent le mieux aux besoins et aux aspirations des communautés linguistiques concernées;
8.invite les gouvernements des États membres ainsi que les autorités locales et régionales à encourager et à soutenir les associations spécialisées, en particulier les comités nationaux du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, de manière à mettre en valeur le rôle que doivent jouer les citoyens et leurs organisations dans l'épanouissement de leur langue;
9.encourage vivement les États membres ainsi que les régions et les collectivités locales concernées à étudier la possibilité de conclure des accords visant à la création d'institutions linguistiques transfrontalières pour les langues et les cultures de moindre diffusion qui sont utilisées dans deux ou plusieurs États voisins ou simultanément dans plusieurs États membres;
10. invite la Commission à:
a)contribuer, dans le cadre de ses compétences, à l'application des initiatives prises par les États membres dans ce domaine;
b)tenir compte des langues de moindre diffusion et des cultures qu'elles reflètent lorsqu'elle définit certaines politiques communautaires; prendre des dispositions pour répondre aux besoins des usagers des langues de moindre diffusion de la même manière qu'aux besoins des usagers des langues majoritaires, dans tous les programmes d'enseignement et les programmes culturels, dont "Jeunesse pour l'Europe", ERASMUS, TEMPUS, "Dimension européenne", "Platform Europe", MEDIA, ainsi que les programmes de traduction des oeuvres littéraires contemporaines;
c)encourager l'usage des langues de moindre diffusion dans la politique audiovisuelle de l'Union par exemple dans le contexte de la télévision haute-définition, ainsi qu'à aider les producteurs et les responsables de la diffusion dans des langues moins répandues à réaliser de nouveaux programmes en format 16:9;
d) faire en sorte que la technologie moderne des télécommunications numériques, qui permet de densifier les transmissions par satellite et par câble, serve à diffuser un plus grand nombre de langues minoritaires;
e)mettre en place, dans les meilleurs délais, un programme inspiré du programme LINGUA en faveur des langues minoritaires, qui permette de faire appel aux réseaux déjà développés dans le cadre des activités du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, tels que le réseau Mercator-Education;
f) faciliter la publication immédiate, après l'avoir corrigée et complétée, de la carte scientifique des langues de moindre diffusion de l'Union européenne, établie par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues;
g)encourager la publication dans les langues de moindre diffusion de l'Union, des traités instituant les Communautés européennes ainsi que d'autres dispositions fondamentales et informations concernant l'Union et ses activités;
11. invite le Conseil et la Commission à:
a)continuer à soutenir et à encourager les organisations européennes représentant les langues de moindre diffusion, en particulier le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, et à leur accorder les ressources nécessaires;
b)faire en sorte que les programmes communautaires en faveur des langues de moindre diffusion et des cultures qu'elles reflètent disposent d'une dotation budgétaire appropriée, et proposer un programme d'action pluriannuel dans ce domaine;
c)tenir dûment compte de l'héritage linguistique et culturel des régions dans l'élaboration de la politique régionale et dans l'attribution des ressources du FEDER, en soutenant des projets de développement régional intégré comportant des mesures visant à soutenir les langues et les cultures régionales, ainsi que dans l'élaboration de la politique sociale et dans l'attribution des ressources du FSE;
d) tenir dûment compte des besoins des usagers de langues de moindre diffusion dans les pays d'Europe centrale et orientale dans l'élaboration des programmes communautaires pour la

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reconstruction économique et sociale, en particulier le programme PHARE;

e) encourager la traduction de livres et d'oeuvres littéraires ainsi que le sous-titrage de films entre langues minoritaires ou vers des langues de l'Union;

f) faire en sorte qu'en encourageant les langues minoritaires, l'Union européenne ne porte pas préjudice aux principales langues nationales concernées, et ce en s'assurant que l'enseignement scolaire des langues principales n'est pas affecté;

12. demande que les langues d'outre-mer parlées dans les territoires appartenant aux États membres bénéficient des mêmes droits et des mêmes dispositions que les langues continentales;

13. en ce qui concerne les langues autochtones non territoriales (comme le rom, le sinto et les langues des communautés juives), invite tous les organes compétents à appliquer mutatis mutandis les recommandations faites dans la présente résolution;

14. souligne que les recommandations de la présente résolution ne sont pas de nature à compromettre l'intégrité territoriale ou l'ordre public des États membres et, en outre, ne doivent pas être interprétées comme impliquant le droit de mener une activité ou d'entamer une action contraires aux objectifs de la Charte des Nations unies ou à toute autre obligation prévue par le droit international;

15. charge son Président de transmettre la présente résolution à la Commission et au Conseil, ainsi qu'aux gouvernements centraux et régionaux des États membres, à l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe, à la Conférence permanente des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux d'Europe, à la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe, aux Nations unies et à l'UNESCO.

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(1) JO n° C 287 du 9. 11. 1981, p. 57.
(2) JO n° C 68 du 14. 3. 1983, p. 104.
(3) JO n° C 318 du 30. 11. 1987, p. 144.
(4) JO n° C 42 du 15. 2. 1993, p. 153.

Conférence internationale sur "Les Nations et les Langues, et la Construction de l'Europe"

Du 7 au 10 novembre 1994, la Katholieke Universiteit de Leuven, dans le cadre de son Programme supérieur d'Etudes européennes, organisera une conférence internationale sur le développement des nations et des langues en Europe et les implications des nationalismes linguistiques et autres sur l'unification europeenne.

Cette conférence sera explicitement multidisciplinaire. Elle s'adresse avant tout aux historiens, aux sociolinguistes et aux spécialistes des sciences politiques mais les specialistes des constitutions politiques, les sociopsychologues, les spécialistes de linguistique historique, les historiens littéraires, les philosophes etc., sont également invités à y contribuer.

Les membres du comité organisateur sont Frank Delmartino, politicologue, Kas Deprez, sociolinguiste, Guido Latré, angliciste, et Louis Vos, historien.

Les personnes désireuses de présenter une communication sont priées d'en envoyer un résumé (ne dépassant pas deux pages) aux organisateurs avant le 30 juin. Une sélection de ces documents sera publiée.

Les langues de la conférence seront le néerlandais, l'anglais et le français et un service de traduction simultanée sera disponible. Les documents de la conférence seront toutefois publiés en anglais.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, prière de contacter : Lieve Notré, Secrétariat de la Conférence, Etudes européennes KUL, Blidge-Inkomststraat 5, B-3000 Leuven (Belgique). Tél: 32-16-286611/2482. Télécopie: 32-16-222345.

CALENDRIER

Colloque international : Développer une Europe des Régions : langues régionales et relations transfrontalières

Strasbourg/Colmar, 1-3 juin 1994. Pour de plus amples renseignements, adressez-vous à : Prof. André-Louis Sanguin, Dép. de Géographie, Univ. d'Angers, 35 rue de la Barre, F-49000 Angers, France.

Cours d'été en gaélique manxois

Manx Museum, Douglas, Ile de Man, du 1er au 12 août 1994. Pour plus de renseignements, contacter : Dr. Brian Stowell, manx language Officer, Dept. of Education, Government Offices, Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas IMI 2QF, Ile de Man.

Première conférence eurorégionale éducative

du 31 mai au 1er juin 1994 à Lille, en France. Cette conférence, organisée par l'Association régionale pour l'éducation interculturelle de la jeunesse à Lille, se concentrera sur des directives pour l'établissement d'un reseau éducatif international mettant l'accent sur la coopération interrégionale dans le domaine de l'éducation. Pour plus de renseignements, contacter : Denise Segard, ARPEIJ, Conseil Régional Région Nord-Pas de Calais, 1 rue du Palais de Justice, F-59800 Lille, France.

35ème conférence de l'Union fédérale des Nationalités européennes (FUEN)

Gdansk, Pologne, du 11 au 15 mai 1994. Formulaire d'inscription à cette conférence disponible auprès de : Armin Nickelsen, Secrétaire général de FUEN, Schiffbrücke 41, D-24939 Flensbourg, Allemagne.

9ème festival occitan sur le thème de "la Provence"

17 juillet 1994 à Monclar de Luerney (Tarn et Garonne). Parmi les attractions: foire aux livres, exposition de produits régionaux, stands tenus par diverses organisations culturelles et une exposition sur le "Tourisme en Occitanie." Plus plus de renseignements, s'adresser à : Robert Linas, Président du Réveil occitan de Tarn et Garonne, Ancien Collège, F-82000 Montauban.

Le Conseil de l'Europe déclare son soutien pour les minorités

Durant la première semaine du mois d'octobre 1993, Vienne a été la scène d'un rassemblement véritablement historique : la toute première réunion au sommet des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe.

Lorsque l'on considère que le Conseil de l'Europe comprend maintenant non moins de 32 Etats membres, il est très encourageant de constater qu'on ait pu parvenir à un tel accord. Le 8 octobre 1993, le sommet a publié une déclaration dont le ton et le contenu étaient, dans l'ensemble, très positifs. Le document avait pour thèmes principaux la promotion de la paix, du bon vouloir et de la coopération entre les Etats membres, la défense des droits de l'homme, la lutte contre le racisme, la xénophobie, l'antisémitisme et l'intolérance ainsi que la protection des minorités nationales.

Entre autres mesures pratiques, on est convenus d'améliorer l'efficacité de la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme en établissant une cour unique chargée d'assurer le respect des engagements souscrits. [Ces dernières années, on s'est de plus en plus plaint que les affaires portées devant la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme prenaient des années à aboutir].

Il a, de plus, été décidé d'augmenter la démocratie en transformant la Conférence permanente des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux en un congrès ayant deux chambres, une pour les autorités régionales et l'autre pour les autorités locales.

L'annexe II de la déclaration concerne les minorités nationales et est publiée dans ce numéro de Contact Bulletin.

Entre autres mesures pratiques, il a été décidé d'élaborer dans les meilleurs délais une convention-cadre spécifiant les principes que les Etats contractants s'engagent à respecter, afin d'assurer la protection des minorités nationales. Cet instrument serait également ouvert à la signature des Etats non membres. D'autre part, il a été décidé de commencer à rédiger un protocole complétant la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme dans le domaine culturel par des dispositions garantissant des droits individuels, notamment pour les personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales.

Le sommet a également déclaré son intention de poursuivre l'étroite coopération engagée entre le Conseil de l'Europe et le Haut-Commissaire de la CSCE pour les Minorités nationales.

Le Secrétaire Général du Bureau, Dónall Ó Riagáin, s'est déclaré assez satisfait du résultat du sommet. "Comme bien d'autres personnes, j'ai été déçu mais non surpris par la décision prise par le sommet de ne pas donner suite à l'initiative de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe d'ajouter un protocole à la Convention des droits de l'homme sur les droits des minorités nationales, linguistiques et religieuses. Durant cette dernière année, on a constaté une certaine opposition à cette initiative et on m'a également informé que la proposition avait rencontré des obstacles d'ordre technique et juridique.

Ajouter un protocole complétant la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme dans le domaine culturel par des dispositions garantissant des droits individuels, notamment pour les personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales, est une proposition très attrayante. L'idée d'une convention-cadre spécifiant les principes que les Etats contractants s'engagent à respecter, afin d'assurer la protection des minorités nationales, est, à certains égards, encore plus intéressante.

Ce qui m'inquiète, c'est qu'aucune définition du terme 'minorité nationale' n'est donnée. Il existe certainement des exemples clairs et incontestés de minorités nationales en Europe centrale et de l'Est [tels que la minorité hongroise en Transylvanie ou la minorité slovène en Autriche] mais je serais curieux de savoir si la France reconnaîtra l'existence d'une nation bretonne ou l'Espagne celle d'une nation basque. Je suis d'avis qu'à moins que nous ne clarifions rapidement cette question tout le processus pourrait être discrédité.

Je suis très impressionné par la promptitude avec laquelle le Conseil de l'Europe aborde les tâches dont il s'est chargé. Je crois comprendre qu'un premier projet de Convention sur les droits des minorités pourrait être prêt dès le mois de juin 1994 et le protocole relatif aux dispositions culturelles devant être ajouté à la Convention des droits de l'homme d'ici la fin de l'année. La Conférence permanente des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux d' Europe [CLRAE] a l'intention d'organiser une conférence très importante ayant pour thème Fédéralisme, Régionalisme, Autonomie locale et Minorités, à Merano, probablement au début de l'automne. D'autre part, le Conseil a laissé entendre qu'il pourrait collaborer avec le Bureau pour organiser une conférence sur les langues régionales ou minoritaires.

Le fait que la coopération avec le Haut-Commissaire de la CSCE pour les Minorités nationales est soulignée est également encourageant. J'ai eu trop souvent l'impression que dans leur travail en faveur des minorités et des langues moins répandues, les institutions de l'Union européenne, le Conseil de l'Europe, la CSCE, les Nations unies et autres organisations, allaient dans la même direction générale mais par des voies parallèles. Une coordination et une coopération accrues ne peuvent que profiter à tous."

(Sommet du Conseil de l'Europe – Vienne – Déclaration, octobre 1993) ANNEXE II, Les Minorités nationales

Nous, chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe, sommes convenus de ce qui suit en matière de protection des minorités nationales:

Les minorités nationales que les bouleversements de l'histoire ont établies en Europe doivent être protégées et respectées afin de contribuer ainsi à la stabilité et à la paix.

Dans cette Europe que nous voulons bâtir, il faut répondre à ce défi : assurer la protection des droits

des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales au sein d'un Etat de droit, dans le respect de l'intégrité territoriale et de la souveraineté nationale des Etats. A ces conditions, ces minorités apporteront une précieuse contribution à la vie de nos societés.

La création d'un climat de tolérance et de dialogue est nécessaire à la participation de tous à la vie politique. A cet égard, une contribution importante doit être apportée par les collectivités régionales et locales.

Dans leurs actions, les Etats doivent assurer le respect des principes qui sont à la base de notre tradition européenne commune : l'égalité devant la loi, la non-discrimination, l'égalité des chances, les droits d'association et de réunion ainsi que la participation active à la vie publique.

Les Etats devraient créer des conditions de nature à permettre aux personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales de développer leur culture tout en préservant leur religion, leurs traditions et leurs coutumes. Ces personnes doivent pouvoir utiliser leur langue en privé comme en public et devraient pouvoir le faire, sous certaines conditions, dans leurs relations avec les autorités publiques.

Nous soulignons l'importance que peuvent avoir pour la stabilité et la paix en Europe les accords bilatéraux entre Etats visant à assurer la protection des minorités nationales concernées.

Nous confirmons notre détermination de mettre pleinement en oeuvre les engagements relatifs à la protection des minorités nationales contenus dans le Document de Copenhague et dans d'autres documents de la CSCE.

Nous considérons que le Conseil de l'Europe doit s'employer à traduire aussi largement que possible, ces engagements politiques dans des instruments juridiques.

Eu égard à sa vocation fondamentale, le Conseil de l'Europe est particulièrement bien placé pour contribuer au règlement des problèmes de minorités nationales. A cet égard, nous entendons poursuivre la coopération étroite engagée entre le Conseil de l'Europe et le Haut-Commissaire de la CSCE pour les minorités nationales.

En conséquence, nous décidons de charger le Comité des Ministres:

- d'élaborer des mesures de confiance de nature à accroître la tolérance et la compréhension entre les peuples;
- de fournir toute l'assistance sollicitée pour la négotiation et la mise en oeuvre de traités sur des questions intéressant les minorités nationales ainsi que d'accords de coopération transfrontalière;
- de rédiger à bref délai une convention-cadre précisant les principes que les Etats contractants s'engagent à respecter pour assurer la protection des minorités nationales. Cet instrument serait ouvert également à la signature des Etats non membres;
- d'engager les travaux de rédaction d'un protocole complétant la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme dans le domaine culturel par des dispositions garantissant des droits individuels, notamment pour les personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

On Fièsse lès Sints – A short collection of poems written in Caroloregian Walloon dedicated to various religious feasts throughout the year. The first few pages of the collection offer the reader a brief description of West Walloon while at the end a brief biographical note is provided on each of the 27 contributors. This particular collection of poetry is the third of a series; the first two concentrating on Christmas and Easter respectively. 100 pages, published by El Lourdon, Jean Luc Fauconnier, rue de Namur 600, B-6200 Châtelet, Belgium.

Mercator-Education – Cette année, Mercator-Education prépare la troisième édition d'un récapitulatif de cours de langues, principalement des cours d'été, pour les personnes désireuses d'apprendre des langues moins répandues. Ce récapitultatif se composera de 30-35 cours qui seront organisés cette année. A la fin du mois de mars, cet imprimé sera distribué à quelque 300 personnes qui s'intéressent à ces cours. Pour en obtenir gratuitement des exemplaires, adressez-vous à: Mercator-Education, Doelestrjitte 8, 8911 DX Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Pays-Bas.

Chimères Douces Amères d'une Occitanie disparue – René Eucher: A collection of 9 short tales written in French on a mythical lost Occitan country. 133 pages. Published by Roseau Nigremontaoin Pensant, F-23500 Saint Georges de Nigremont, France, ISBN 2-9503436-0-0.

Kolibri Kolibri – A 144 page collection of tales (with color illustrations) for children in Luxemburgish. Many of the stories have been translated to Luxemburgish from other languages and through this book the young reader is introduced to the traditions and folklores of other cultures. Published by ASTI Lëtzebuerg, ISBN 2-9599978-0-8.

Ecrire le gallo – A.J.Raude: A 66 page description of Gallo, a lesser used Romance language of Brittany, containing detailed descriptions of orthography, pronounciation and general problems specifically related to this language. Price 8 FF, available from Bertaeyn Galeizz, 16 rue Penhoët, F-35065 Rennes cedex, Brittany; ISBN 2-910369-00-5.

Langues, dialectes et écritures: les langues romanes de la France – Hervé Guillorel and Jean Sibille: Published proceedings of the conference held on Minority Romance Languages in France, 16-18 April 1992 at the University of Paris V-Nanterre. This collection of papers deals with three main questions: problems involving the status of various languages, analyses of social reality, and the problems of linguistic normalisation. Price: 150 FF; ISBN 2-85910-155-1.

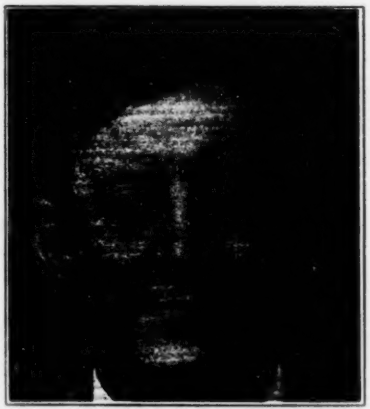
Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues – Activités générales

Les lecteurs de Contact Bulletin des 10 dernières années seront au fait des développements dans le domaine des langues moins répandues à travers l'Union européenne et du rôle très important que joue à cet égard le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues. Le Bureau européen promeut et défend de plus en plus activement les langues moins répandues/régionales/minoritaires qui sont parlées quotidiennement par 40 à 50 millions de citoyens de l'Union européenne. Grâce à un lobby politique et à la mise en oeuvre de programmes de travail, les locuteurs de ces langues qui font partie intégrante du patrimoine culturel de l'Union européenne ne sont dorénavant plus ignorés. D'importants changements ont eu lieu dans le domaine de nos langues et le Bureau a pour but de veiller à ce que cela continue.

Avec un effectif total de dix personnes basées dans les bureaux de Dublin, Bruxelles et Luxembourg et avec l'aimable concours de divers gouvernements et organisations (voir en dernière page), le Bureau poursuit son objectif par l'entremise de quatre stratégies principales : il cherche à obtenir un soutien juridique et politique pour nos langues (voir Killilea p.1), veut faciliter l'échange d'information et d'expérience parmi les personnes s'occupant activement des langues moins répandues, recherche une aide financière et met en place des structures qui apportent un soutien constant à des projets concernant nos langues. De plus, le Bureau a des comités dans 10 des Etats membres de l'Union européenne, représentant d'une façon générale les diverses communautés de langues moins répandues et les principales organisations, aussi bien officielles que bénévoles, travaillant à leur sauvegarde et leur promotion.

Publicité

Rassembler et disséminer toute information ayant trait à nos langues est l'une des principales préoccupations du Bureau. Depuis 1984, le Bureau publie trois fois par an, CONTACT BULLETIN, en français, en italien et en anglais. Depuis 1990, celui-ci parait également en allemand. Cette publication donne aux lecteurs des nouvelles sur les activités à travers l'Union européenne et au-delà, et présente, sous forme de suppléments, les textes des résolutions et autres documents politiques importants concernant nos langues. Source utile de références, CONTACT BULLETIN est distribué gratuitement dans le monde entier. Parmi les autres produits publicitaires du Bureau, on trouve des posters pour des conférences et des événements publics, des communiqués de presse, des manuels et des vidéos décrivant les activités du Bureau.



Dónall Ó Riagáin
Secrétaire Général

Programme de Visites d'Etudes

Depuis 1983, plus de 550 locuteurs de langues moins répandues ont participé à environ 70 visites d'études organisées dans des régions où on parle nos langues. Sept de ces visites sont organisées pendant l'année scolaire par le Bureau avec le concours de la Commission de l'Union européenne. Le programme donne aux personnes appartenant à des régions de langues moins répandues l'occasion d'étudier de première main les structures administratives, éducatives, culturelles et des médias dans une autre région de langue moins répandue. Le programme, s'étalant sur une semaine, comprend des visites à et des réunions avec des écoles, des autorités locales, le milieu des affaires, des journalistes et des lieux d'intérêt historique situés dans des régions où des langues moins répandues sont parlées. Une feuille d'information est publiée chaque printemps par la Commission de l'Union européenne. Celle concernant le programme de 1994-95 est maintenant disponible en écrivant à l'une des adresses du Bureau figurant en dernière page.

Parlement européen

Les progrès accomplis au niveau du Parlement européen et du Conseil de l'Europe sont dûs en grande partie aux pressions exercées par le Bureau. Un des résultats les plus importants de ce travail de lobby fut la création en 1983 d'une ligne budgétaire pour les langues moins répandues. Son montant s'élevait alors à 100 000 Écus; aujourd'hui, cette ligne budgétaire est de 3,5 millions d'Écus. Dans les années à venir, le Bureau, avec le concours de ses comités d'Etat membre, exercera de fortes pressions pour que cette ligne continue d'augmenter. Les projets financés par ce budget sont d'un ordre pratique : éducation, publication, réalisation de films, théâtre, musique, information, informatique etc. La Commission consulte régulièrement le Bureau avant de prendre des décisions sur les projets qui recevront un financement et des rapports décrivant le financement des projets entre 1983 et 1989 sont disponibles auprès du Bureau. Un rapport sur les activités entre 1989 et 1993 sera publié par le Bureau dans le courant de cette année.

Conseil de l'Europe

Un autre événement majeur dans l'histoire de nos langues a été la décision votée à une large majorité par le Conseil de l'Europe de conférer la forme juridique d'une convention à la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires (V. CB 9.2). Le Bureau a été mêlé à ce processus dès le début : en 1984 deux membres du Bureau faisaient partie du comité d'experts établi par la Conférence des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux d'Europe pour préparer un projet de Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires. Le Secrétaire Général du Bureau, Dónall Ó Riagáin, fut consulté lors des dernières phases de la rédaction du document et invité en tant que délégué observateur sans droit de vote à prendre la parole dans un comité d'experts ad hoc qui fut établi par le Comité des Ministres en vue d'examiner le document. En conséquence, il existe aujourd'hui et pour la première fois un instrument juridique international de protection des langues moins répandues.

Réseau d'information informatisé

Un autre objectif du Bureau est la création de structures qui fournissent un appui constant aux communautés de langues moins répandues, telles que MERCATOR, le Secrétariat à l'Edition enfantine et Evrosola.

Concept développé en 1987, MERCATOR fut initialement lancé dans le but de rassembler de l'information sur nos langues, l'archiver électroniquement et la mettre à la disposition du grand public (V. le supplément spécial sur Mercator dans CB 9.3).

Il existe quatre centres : Médias-pays de Galles, Education-Frise, Etudes générales-Paris et Droit et Législation-Barcelone. En 1991, la Commission a demandé au Bureau d'en être le coordonnateur à partir de 1992. Chaque centre a développé ses propres méthodes de rassemblement de données et toute cette information est maintenant à la disposition des personnes faisant des recherches, celles chargées d'élaborer des politiques ainsi que du grand public. Cette année, le Bureau va examiner les avantages qu'il y aurait à relier les quatre centres électroniquement et, à l'avenir, donnera au grand public l'accès au système par l'entremise de liens informatiques.

Secrétariat à l'Edition enfantine

En 1987, le Bureau prit part à une conférence européenne d'éditeurs de livres d'enfants en langues minoritaires qui eut lieu dans les iles occidentales écossaises (V. CB 4.3). Sur le plan pratique, cette conférence a abouti, entre autres, à la création d'un petit secrétariat ayant pour objectif de consolider et coordonner les liens entre divers éditeurs de langues moins répandues afin de parvenir à coéditer des ouvrages et à avoir ainsi plus de livres en langues moins répandues destinés aux enfants. Récemment, avec l'aimable concours de la Mairie de Quimper (Bretagne), le secrétariat s'est installé à Kemper, en Bretagne, et aide les éditeurs à produire des livres d'enfants en langues moins répandues , distribuant par la même occasion de l'information sur ces langues. Les éditeurs recevront un bulletin "Livres pour enfants" (qui, en plus de renseignements utiles, contient des offres de coédition). D'autre part, un service de liaison rapide répondant aux demandes des personnes désireuses de trouver des coéditeurs pour des projets spécifiques dans les meilleurs délais vient d'être mis en place.

Evrošola

Le rassemblement bisannuel d'écoliers du primaire qui reçoivent leur éducation par l'intermédiaire d'une langue moins répandue aura lieu dans la région slovène d'Italie du 19 au 23 avril 1995. Pendant plusieurs jours, des enfants, des parents et des enseignants de toutes les communautés de langues moins répandues se rassembleront pour participer à des jeux et des événements sportifs ainsi que pour visiter des écoles de la région. Chaque soir, des événements culturels reflétant des traditions locales seront organisés et les enfants auront l'occasion d'avoir des contacts très directs avec la population slovène puisqu'ils seront logés dans des familles locales.

Jeunesse

Grâce à la création d'une structure pour la jeunesse au cours de la conférence pour la jeunesse organisée l'année dernière en Catalogne par le Bureau, des liens étroits sont en train de s'établir et de se développer entre les organisations de langues moins répandues pour la jeunesse. On

Siège social de DUBLIN

Diarmaid Breathnach
Chef de Service

Olwyn Ní Chróinín, Secrétaire

Caoimhe Ní Lochlainn,
Secrétaire administrative

Ricarda Jenniges, Assistante

Luxembourg

Secrétariat à l'éducation

Anne Sophie Oudin

espère que cette nouvelle structure au sein du Bureau permettra de créer des liens étroits avec et de coordonner le travail des organisations de langues moins répandues pour la jeunesse encourageant les échanges entre les jeunes locuteurs de langues moins répandues et les aidant à conserver et à utiliser leur langue en profitant davantage des programmes européens pour la jeunesse qui existent.

Médias

Cette année le Bureau va mettre en oeuvre les recommandations faites lors d'une autre conférence qu'il avait organisée en Galice l'automne dernier sur la coproduction d'émissions de télévision en langues moins répandues. On a déjà commencé à coordonner et à établir des contacts entre des sociétés de production de télévision indépendantes et des sociétés de radiodiffusion pour la coproduction d'émissions en langues moins répandues. Un petit comité sera établi et préparera un rapport avant le mois de septembre prochain sur la création d'une structure destinée à développer et à faciliter les contacts entre les producteurs et les responsables de la diffusion afin d'encourager la mise en commun de ressources dans le but d'accroître la production d'émissions en langues moins répandues.

De plus, le Bureau va bientôt produire un livret sur les services de télévision en langues moins répandues qui comportera des recommandations visant aussi bien les responsables de la diffusion que les producteurs.

Education

En ce qui concerne le domaine primordial de l'éducation, un comité d'experts sera bientôt établi afin de conseiller le Bureau sur la manière dont il peut mettre en pratique la politique de l'éducation qu'il a conçue l'année dernière. Un petit secrétariat à l'éducation a récemment été créé à Luxembourg et toute activité dans ce domaine sera réalisée à partir de ces bureaux qui ont été gracieusement fournis par le Ministère de l'Education national du Luxembourg.

Suite au succès de "Parler l'Europe", un livret destiné aux parents sur les avantages d'une éducation plurilingue, (V. CB 10.1), publié l'année dernière, une vidéo va être produite en français et en anglais sur le même sujet. Elle visera à convaincre les parents des avantages dont leurs enfants peuvent bénéficier grâce à une éducation plurilingue dans une communauté plurilingue.

Centre d'information de Bruxelles

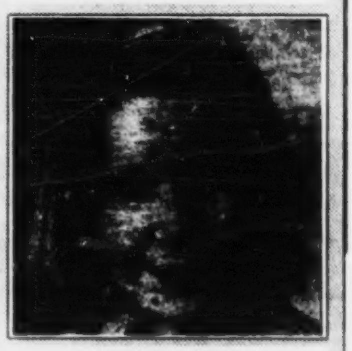
La création d'un centre de documentation et la diffusion de l'information demeurent les activités principales du centre d'information de Bruxelles du Bureau. Cette année, en plus de ses autres activités, le centre présentera un programme d'activités culturelles de régions de langues moins répandues à Bruxelles. Des personnes travaillant dans le domaine de la culture se réuniront pour apporter des idées et des suggestions sur la manière dont on pourrait présenter au mieux la riche diversité des cultures régionales et organiser un ou plusieurs événements culturels à Bruxelles afin d'attirer l'attention sur nos régions. Par ailleurs, les ouvrages suivants seront publiés : le premier volume d'une brochure d'information particulièrement bien conçue sur les régions de langues moins répandues de l'Union européenne, un lexique de A à Z destiné à un public spécialisé sur le monde complexe de nos langues dans le cadre de la dimension européenne, une brochure générale en italien et en allemand sur l'éducation bilingue et une brochure générale en irlandais et en néerlandais sur l'Union européenne et le travail du Bureau (les versions française, anglaise, italienne et allemande sont déjà disponibles).

Toute personne désireuse d'obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur le Bureau, ses objectifs ou ses activités, peut écrire à l'une de nos adresses figurant en dernière page.

D. Breathnach

Bruxelles

Centre d'information



Myriam Alkain
Chef de Service

Helga Janssen, Secréatire

Silvia Carrel,
Responsable de l'information

Wolfgang Jenniges, Documentaliste

NOUVELLE LOI LADINE

Le 3 décembre 1993, le gouvernement italien a ratifié un décret protégeant les Ladins de la province de Trente. Le gouvernement et non le parlement est investi du pouvoir de ratifier un tel décret par le Statut d'Autonomie de la région du Trentin-Tyrol Sud. Ainsi, les Ladins du Trente bénéficient dorénavant d'une protection par décret qui n'est toutefois pas aussi bonne que celle dont bénéficient les Ladins de la province de Bolzano.

Le nouveau décret comporte cinq articles. Le premier concerne l'utilisation de la langue ladine et stipule que les citoyens appartenant à la population ladine de la province de Trente ont le droit d'utiliser leur propre langue dans leurs relations orales ou écrites avec les établissements éducatifs et les agences de l'Etat, de la Région, de la Province, des pouvoirs locaux ainsi que des organismes en dépendant dans les régions ladines et aussi les agences de la Région et de la Province qui remplissent des fonctions dans l'intérêt de la population ladine tout en étant situées à l'extérieur des régions concernées. Les forces armées et la police sont exclues des agences de l'Etat. Le décret prévoit également que les agences en question doivent répondre oralement en ladin ou par écrit en italien, pour ce qui est du texte officiel, suivi du texte en ladin. Les documents officiels délivrés par les agences et les administrations précitées et s'adressant spécifiquement à la population des régions ladines seront rédigés en italien et suivis du texte en ladin. L'article 1 stipule enfin que, lors des réunions d'organismes élus locaux dans les régions ladines de la province de Trente, les membres peuvent s'exprimer en ladin avec, si nécessaire, une traduction simultanée en italien si certains membres de tels organismes affirment ne pas comprendre le ladin. Les comptes rendus peuvent être rédigés en italien ou en ladin.

L'article 2 concerne l'éducation et prévoit que dans les régions ladines la langue et la culture ladines seront des matières obligatoires durant les années d'obligation scolaire. Dans les établissements du second cycle de l'enseignement secondaire, les organismes pertinents autoriseront l'introduction de cours de langue et de culture ladines, à la demande d'un nombre suffisant d'élèves ou de parents. Dans toutes les écoles, le ladin peut être utilisé comme langue d'enseignement ainsi que pour promouvoir et inculquer la connaissance de la culture ladine, conformément aux règlements établis par les autorités scolaires. Quant au personnel, le décret mentionne comme "priorité absolue" le transfert vers les régions ladines du personnel connaissant la langue ladine.

L'article 3 porte sur le fonctionnement des agences publiques. Il prévoit que le personnel ayant une connaissance de la langue ladine peut être transféré vers les régions ladines "en priorité absolue" et établit un comité chargé de vérifier les aptitudes linguistiques.

L'article 4 stipule que tout recensement de la population globale du pays comportera des questions visant à vérifier le nombre et la distribution géographique des locuteurs de ladin résidant dans la province de Trente et que le premier de ces recensements doit avoir lieu d'ici deux ans. L'article 5, enfin, dresse la liste des municipalités classées comme appartenant aux régions ladines.

Le nouveau décret élimine en partie l'inégalité existant entre deux groupes de la minorité ladine, mais la minorité elle-même a déjà exprimé un certain nombre de critiques et de réservations. L'Union autonomiste ladine, dans un document approuvé le 19-12-93, a surtout et avant tout fait remarquer qu'en dépit de requêtes incessantes le texte a été gardé top secret jusqu'au bout et qu'une fois de plus la communauté concernée avait été mise devant le fait accompli. Si les Ladins eux-mêmes avaient été davantage consultés, la loi aurait peut-être été formulée de façon plus claire et efficace.

Selon les Ladins, l'article concernant l'éducation laisse beaucoup à désirer sur la façon dont il aborde la question de "priorité absolue" en matière de recrutement du personnel. Cette soi-disant "priorité absolue" ne se rapporte qu'au transfert et non à la nomination du personnel enseignant: cette idée, qui avait déjà été utilisée dans une formulation antérieure concernant le personnel permanent, a, d'une manière surprenante, été étendue aux emplois temporaires et aux postes de remplaçants. Dans la pratique, ces dispositions auraient peu d'impact car les cas auxquels elles s'appliqueraient sont statistiquement trop négligeables pour la formation d'un corps enseignant stable et qualifié. Ce qui est encore plus inquiétant, c'est le fait qu'une telle interprétation singulière du principe de "priorité absolue" pourrait avoir un effet négatif sur toute loi relative au personnel, comme par exemple les règlements provinciaux régissant les écoles maternelles.

Selon les Ladins, le concept très "relatif" de "priorité absolue" s'applique également au recrutement du personnel de l'administration publique et est tout à fait ineffectif relativement aux concours pour le personnel permanent.

En ce qui concerne l'utilisation de la langue dans l'administration publique, le texte ne fait aucune mention des ressources requises pour de telles innovations: qui fournira les services de traduction, qui fournira l'équipement technique et linguistique, qui formera le personnel, paiera le travail supplémentaire, etc., étant donné que les dispositions relatives au recrutement du personnel ne garantissent pas qu'il soit qualifié ? Finalement, d'après les Ladins, la clause concernant un recensement de la minorité d'ici deux ans est superflue. De plus, un recensement ne couvrant que le Val di Fassa ne prendrait pas en compte les Ladins résidant dans le reste de la province de Trente et serait par conséquent discriminatoire et inacceptable, selon l'Union autonomiste ladine.

Bojan Brezigar

Encourager les affaires par l'intermédiaire des langues moins répandues

Un concours international a été lancé aujourd'hui, le 17 mars, dans le but d'inciter les entreprises à réussir en utilisant leur langue maternelle.

Euroblas, inauguré simultanément à Inverness, Dublin et Bruxelles, récompensera les entreprises qui développent l'usage et la promotion des langues autochtones par l'entremise d'activités commerciales et économiques.

L'initiative a été prise en Ecosse par l'agence de développement du gaélique Comunn na Gaidhlig et en Irlande par Údarás na Gaeltachta et Bord na Gaeilge et on pense que plusieurs autres pays s'y joindront l'année prochaine. Le but serait qu'en fin de compte la majorité des langues minoritaires d'Europe participent à Euroblas.

Bénéficiant du soutien de la Commission européenne et du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, le projet Euroblas (blas signifie goût en gaélique) a deux objectifs principaux. Premièrement, il veut encourager l'usage des langues minoritaires dans les relations d'affaires des entreprises situées dans les régions où ces langues sont parlées. Ceci veut dire utiliser la langue sur le lieu de travail et dans les rapports avec la communauté, y compris dans la publicité.

Deuxièmement, il cherche à promouvoir de nouveaux créneaux à travers le développement de partenariats entre les entreprises y participant.

Cette année, des concours distincts auront lieu en Ecosse et en Irlande dans quatre catégories : les entreprises de moins de 20 employés, toutes les autres entreprises, les coopératives et les centres de tourisme ou d'artisanat.

Les sociétés devront fournir un plan indiquant comment elles ont l'intention d'utiliser la langue minoritaire dans leurs relations d'affaires puis elles seront jugées sur les progrès qu'elles auront accomplis selon ce plan au cours de l'année et les profits qu'elles en auront tirés.

Chaque pays sélectionnera des gagnants dans chaque catégorie. Ceux-ci participeront ensuite à la finale internationale qui sera organisée chaque année dans un pays différent. Cet événement aura lieu à Galway en mars 1995 et en Ecosse en 1996.

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez contacter: Allan Campbell (Ecosse), CNAG, 0463-234138/226472.

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An Biúró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana
The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages

CONTACT BULLETIN

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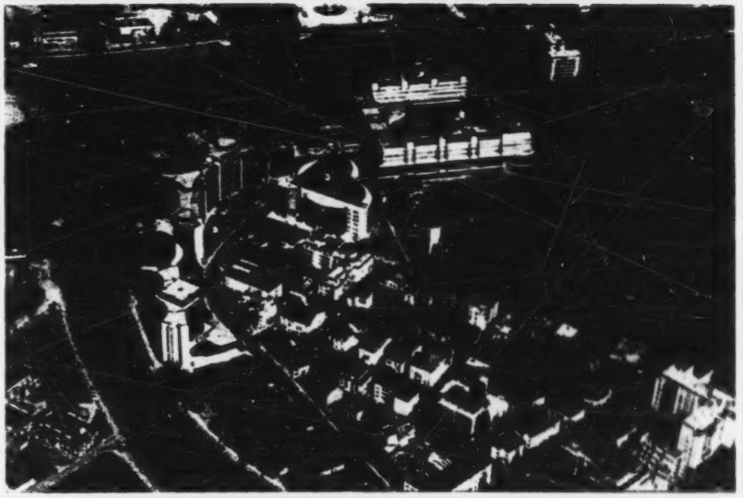
European Parliament Intergroup for Minority Languages



The European Parliament (European Parliament / Airdiasol)

Yves Frémion, outgoing president of the European Parliament's Intergroup for Minority Languages, an informal group of MEPs of almost all political persuasions who try to ensure the inclusion of the EU's lesser used languages on the European political agenda, has just completed a brief report on the group's activities between 1989 and 1994. With recent events in ex-Yugoslavia the European public is very much aware of interethnic tensions and even within the European Union there are still member states which refuse to accord recognition to their linguistic minorities. This brief account reiterates the much shared belief of the Intergroup that in order for all peoples to co-exist peacefully we fully respect one another's cultural and linguistic differences.

The main activities of the Intergroup during the 1989-94 Parliament were the role played by it each year in gathering support throughout Parliament for the yearly increases in the lesser used languages' budget line. In 1989 this amounted to 1m ECU and in 1994 had increased to 3.5m ECU. As reported in the last edition of CB (11.1) the Parliament by an overwhelming majority adopted in February last the Killilea Resolution which calls for, amongst other things, that EU member states recognise their linguistic minorities and immediately set up the legislative and administrative structures necessary to preserve and promote such languages. It also strongly recommends that EU member states not already having done so to sign the Council of Europe's Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

In a report prepared by Mme Bindi entitled "Citizenship of the Union", which was adopted on 21.11.1991, the Intergroup succeeded in having included an amendment seeking the inclusion of a text relating to lesser used languages in the Treaty of the Union.

Above are just some of the main achievements of the Intergroup during this period. A new Parliament has now been elected thus resulting in a change of membership of the Intergroup which over the years has worked in close collaboration with the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages in ensuring that our languages remain high on the European political agenda. The Bureau would like to avail of this opportunity to thank members of the outgoing Intergroup who attended meetings and helped the Bureau in the furtherance of its aims. (see also p. 7)

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The development of language teaching

Welsh Joint Education Committee comment on EU Green Paper on The European Dimension of Education

Without detracting from the need to enhance the competence of more and more teachers and pupils in the more commonly-used languages within the European Union, it is important to accord a proper recognition to the significance of the lesser-used languages within the Union. These are of particular relevance in some areas, not least in Wales. For some pupils, their bilingualism is focused upon a commonly-used world-wide language and a lesser-used language. This is the initial linguistic experience from which the acquisition of yet further language competences can develop. In focusing upon the richness of the cultural diversity within the EU, there must be a recognition of the critical contribution made by lesser-used languages. There would seem to be much to commend, educationally and culturally, in developing strong links between regions in Europe where lesser-used languages are spoken by a significant number of the population within each of the specific areas. Wales, Brittany, Catalonia come to mind immediately in this context. The important pragmatic issue is that in the processes of facilitating language learning and language teaching within the European Community due regard is given to the needs of lesser-used languages side by side with the requirements of the more commonly spoken languages.

Within the Welsh Joint Education Committee, there is experience of at least twenty-five years in developing pupil and teacher resources through the medium of Welsh. There would seem to be a rich potential within the European Community for evolving strategies for the joint development of resources in several languages. This ought not only to facilitate and enrich the linguistic experiences of pupils but also be more cost-effective in the usage of human expertise.

There is one further dimension in the development of learning resources for pupils which is of some significance. The effective teaching of commonly-used languages must pay due regard to the culture and background of pupils. To this end, much constructive work on using the context of Wales for the teaching of English has ensued. This has rich potential for collaboration in the wider European context.

GAELIC KARAOKE

Learners of Scottish Gaelic have recently been offered an unique method of improving their language skills through karaoke. Comann an Luchd-Ionnsachaidh (the Gaelic Learners' Association) in collaboration with Clydebank College has produced an innovative tape and booklet package entitled "Karaoke Ceilidh" which enables users to sing along to some of their favourite Gaelic songs. On one side of the tape listeners can hear the songs being sung. On the other side they will hear the backing music only, so that they themselves can sing along. Preceding each backing track they can listen to the lyrics of each song being recited in case they are unsure of the correct pronunciation.

Gaelic music has always held a strong attraction for learners of the language. It is hoped that this user-friendly do-it-yourself introduction to Gaelic song will encourage more people to take up the language and provide a source of light hearted fun to learners and fluent speakers alike. Further details are available from Sheila Gunn, CLI, 5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness IV2 3HQ (0463.711792) or Gordon Wells, Clydebank College, Kilbowie Road, Clydebank G81 2AA, Scotland. (041.9527771).

Small increase in number of Irish speakers

Preliminary results of the 1991 Census in the Republic of Ireland show that 1,095,830 persons declared themselves as being able to speak Irish. This amounts to 32.5% of the population.

This compares with 1,042,701 Irish speakers in 1986 (31.1%)

A breakdown of these figures by age group reveals that 4.6% of children in the 3-4 years age group were declared as being able to speak Irish. As children cannot be registered in primary school in Ireland until they are at least four years of age, this gives some indication of the percentage of children to whom Irish is spoken by one or both parents in the home. This shows a fractional increase from 4.2% in 1986.

Human Rights in Northern Ireland

The Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, a body which functions in Northern Ireland and which is established by the UK Parliament by Section 20 of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1993 has proposed in its Annual Report, laid before the British Parliament on 1 July 1993, that the UK sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, now accorded the legal form of a Convention.

The Commission notes that the Charter is designed to protect and promote regional or minority languages and includes a non-discrimination clause concerning their use. It furthermore notes that the governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are still considering their position vis-à-vis the Charter and it expresses the hope that both will sign.

Financial Assistance for lesser used language projects

Each year the European Commission offers financial assistance, in the form of modest subventions, for projects intended to promote lesser used languages.

Projects may relate to one or more domains e.g. Education, Media, Public Administration, Social and Economic Life, Cultural and Youth Activities. All projects should, as far as possible, have a European dimension and be of a transfrontier nature. They should have a multiplier effect and the results of each project should be publicised and made available to the public. Subventions will not be given to defray costs which are normally the responsibility of Member State, Regional or Local Authorities (e.g. teacher salaries, provision of public services). Subventions normally do not exceed 50% of the total cost of the project. Applicants are advised to submit their projects as early as possible in the calendar year.

A detailed information note and application form can be obtained from:

Mr. Domenico Lenarduzzi,
TFRH, Commission of the European Communities,
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.

The Brussels Information Centre
of the European Bureau for
Lesser Used Languages
49 Sint-Jooststraat,
B-1030 Brussels, Belgium.
Tel: +2.2182590
Fax: +2.21 81974
is available to advise
applicants on the preparation
of submissions, but all
decisions relating to the
acceptance of requests rests
with the European Commission.

MERCATOR–Legislation

The Catalan Language and the European Elections

Compared to previous European elections, the electoral programmes of Catalan political parties in the recent European Parliament contained little mention of the whole lesser used language question. Their position was somehow hardened, however, by the fact that in practical terms little or no attention was paid by Europe in implementing the European Parliament's Resolution recognising Catalan i.e. the negative response of Jaques Delors to a request to publish an official Catalan translation of the Treaty of the European Union and the refusal of European institutions to include Catalan in the Lingua and Erasmus programmes.

As regards the number of votes which could be attributed to the defence of Catalan and other minority languages it is estimated that 3,055,360 voters (representing 36.23% of the total number of electors) in the Catalan countries alone considered this issue to be of major importance in these areas.

Mercator-Legislation and representatives of the Catalan section of the Spanish Member State Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages will of course be doing everything in their power to remind MEPs of promises made by them in their election manifestos.

Oriel Ramon

Mercator-Media Forum

Mercator Media Forum will be launched in the Autumn of 1994. It is a new journal for the study of communication and media in the lesser used languages of the European Union produced by Mercator Media and its Advisory Network.

The first issue of the Mercator Media Forum contains ten substantial articles written by experts in the field – including new developments in television for lesser used languages; dialect, standard language and diglossia on established television stations; the story of *Egunkaria* – setting up a Basque daily newspaper; *Les Europes*, an anthology of literature of the lesser used languages through the ages; and EU audiovisual policy as it relates to lesser used languages.

For more information, contact: Mercator Media, Prifysgol Cymru/University of Wales, Aberystwyth SY23 3AS, Cymru/Wales. Tel: +44.970.622533/6. Fax:+44.970.622190. e-mail: merc@uk.ac.aber.

Mercator-Education

The results of two of Mercator-Education's inventory projects are currently in press. *Provision of learning materials for primary and pre-primary education*, the LEMA project, where one can find an answer to many questions. For example: is there a connection between the position of a minority language in the education system and the involvement of the government with the production of learning materials? Also in production is *Pre-primary education: an inventory of the current position of lesser used languages in primary education of some member states of the European Union*, the PREP project.

Both volumes will be available from: Mercator-Education, Fryske Akademy, PO Box 54, 8900 AB Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. A more detailed description of these publications will be published in the next edition of Contact Bulletin.

Mark Stuijt

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Atlas Linguarum Europae – Collection of proceedings of the conference of the same title held in Saint Vincent, Val d'Aoste 6-8 June 1989, which concentrated on the dialects of this region in Italy. This collection of papers from the conference also provides the reader with an update on work carried out since 1970 on an atlas of European dialects and languages. 183 pages, published by Misumeci Editeur, ISBN 88-7032-351-X [350].

Dal Creus dël Temp – Tavo Burat. Piemontese poetry with a Walloon translation on the facing page and word by word translation to French and Italian at the bottom of the page. 70 pages; published by: Traditions et Parlers populaires Wallonie-Bruxelles asbl, blvd. Léopold II, 44, B-1080 Brussels; ISBN 2-930047-06-2.

La construction linguistique de la Communauté européenne – Normand Labrie. A comprehensive 414 page description of the present linguistic situation of the EU and its institutions. It includes official languages, regional languages and the languages of immigrants and gives detailed account of legislation involving all languages and their present status. A chapter is also included on languages which are offered no official recognition either on EU or member state level as well as an eye towards future language policy within the Union. Published by: Editions Slatkine, 5 rue des Chaudronniers, Case 765, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland; ISBN 2-85203-269-4.

Conflict and Compromise in a Multilingual Society, Belgium – Kenneth D.McRae. This, the second volume of a collection of detailed studies (in this case 387 pages) contains tables, maps figures and six chapters on the language situation of Belgium: history, language groups and Belgian social structure, group images attitudes and the political system, constitutional and institutional framework, contemporary problems, and the ambiguity of the Belgian case. Volumes 3 and 4 of this series will concentrate on Finland and Canada respectively. Published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3C5, Canada; ISBN 0-88920-195-1.

L'Alsace à la reconquête de son bilinguisme – J.Petit: an 80 page historical account of the linguistic history of Alsace from early times to the present day with special emphasis on the linguistic developments in the region from 1945 to 1990. Available from SALDE, 31 rue Oberlin, F-67000 Strasbourg. 40FF. ISBN 0758-170X.

The Frisians in Schleswig Holstein – Thomas Steensen: A 32 page booklet on North Frisia and the language spoken there, Friisk. Available from: Nordfriisk Instituut, D-25821 Bräist/Bredstedt; ISBN 3-88007-216-7.

Kleine Nationen und Ethnische Minderheiten im Umbruch Europas/Small Nations and Ethnic Minorities in an Emerging Europe – The published proceedings of the International Scientific Conference held on February 3-5 1992 in Maribor, Slovenia. 365 pages containing the texts of approx 60 papers presented at this conference. Various themes covered at the conference including Nations, States and Selfdetermination, Regionalism and European Integration, Linguistic, Cultural and Religious Rights, Interethnic Relationships, and 8 case studies. The final part of the book contains a general report on the debates and discussions that took place. Published in German by Slavica Verlag, Dr.Anton Kovac, Elisabethstr.22, D-80796 München; ISBN 3-927077-04-6.

History of An Comunn Gaidhealach: the First Hundred: Frank Thompson , 145 pages. A historical account covering the period 1891 to 1991 of the Comunn Gaidhealach (the Highland Association), until recently the only organisation in Scotland concerned with the promotion of Gaelic. Published by An Comunn Gaidhealach, 109 Church Street, Inverness, Scotland; ISBN 0-905905-06-7.

Regional Contact – Journal for Regional Information and the exchange of experience in the Field of European Regionalism Vienna Conference in November 1991 entitled "Die Donaumonarchie als Wiege des europäischen Regionalismus". All contributions presented at this conference, attended by over 100 participants from 14 countries, are included. Foundation For International Understanding, Kultorvet 2, postbox 85, DK-1003 Copenhagen.

L'Europe des Ethnies – Guy Héraud. An attempt to approach the whole national question of nation. The first part offers the reader an 'ethnic typology' and in the following 18 sections gives descriptions of ethnic groups without a state. A further 23 sections list states with ethnic groups in them and a small description of each group. The final section discusses federalism, linguistic rights, the construction of Europe and the rights of minorities. Published in French by Bruylant, av. W.Churchill 221, B-1180 Brussels; ISBN 2-8027-0507-5.

Italian/Friulan Dictionary: compiled by Gianni Nazzi. 736 pages; 80,000 Lira. For further information: Clape culturâl Acuilee, Via Repetella, I-33100 Udine, Italy.

Narodne Manjsine 3 – Slovenci v avstrijski dezeli – Editor: Boris Jehsil. 079-5, Ljubliana, Slovenia. This publication "National Minorities no. 3" is a collection of papers in Slovene and German on the Slovenes in the federal state of Steiermark, Austria. The papers were given at a conference on the same theme held in Maribor from 25 to 27 May 1993. Papers given covered themes such as "Intercultural Learning v Regional Nationalism", "Language and Identity", "The role of research in everyday political life of ethnic groups" in addition to more specific papers relating to the situation of Slovene in this particular region of Austria. 368 pages. ISBN 86-7131-079-5.

A Geography of the Welsh Language 1961-1991 – Horn Aitchison and Harold Carter. Published by the University of Wales Press, Cardiff, this book, as spelled out in the introduction, sets out to describe and explain the changing geography of the Welsh language during the above period including detailed studies of censuses and social and class linkages. There is also a brief chapter on the Welsh language during the "critical" years of 1961 to 1981 followed by an overview of the language's situation in the 1980s in what is described as a "decade of mixed blessings". 125 pages. ISBN 0-7083-1236-5.

Enseignement Précoce des Langues régionales en Europe – published by the 'Association pour le Développement de l'Occitan', le Mauritian 1, F-48000 Mende, France. A collection of papers given in French at a conference 'Pre-school teaching of regional languages in Europe' held in Mende, France from 27 to 29 October 1993. Topics include texts on how and why should one teach a regional language; examples of bilingual primary education in the Aosta Valley in Italy, and the psychological aspect of regional language teaching. 171 pages. Available from the above address.

ABC Ladin-Deutsch-Italiano – Istitut Pedagogich Ladin. Exactly as the title suggests this is a small colour illustrated dictionary of general terms in Ladin, German and Italian for young people. ISBN 88-86137-01-X.

European Writers' Congress – The Lesser Used Languages of Europe and their Literatures – Forum Europa. Publication of lectures given at this congress held in Luxembourg on 21-27 September 1992. Fifteen papers in all are included in this collection covering such different themes as "The consequences of discovering you are different", "Inuit Literature", Children's Literature", Theatre in Welsh and Friulan", "Writing in Lesser Used Languages". 186 pages. Further information from: Wolfram Glaser, General Secretary, European Writers' Congress, Kravogelstraße 35a, Munich, Germany.

Sorbische Kultur und Ihre Rezipientin: Ergebnisse einer Ethnosoziologischen Befragung – Ludwig Elle. The results of a survey carried out in 1987 by the former Institute for Sorbian Ethnic studies in five German-Sorb areas on the lifestyles and culture of the inhabitants. After the recent changes and reunification of Germany this publication gives an interesting overview of the situation in these bilingual areas just before the collapse of the former German Democratic Republic. 112 pages. ISBN: 3-7420-0822-6.

Sorbische Kunst die Zwanziger und Dreißiger Jahre – Maria Mirtschin. A 131 page study of Sorbian art in the 20s and 30s of this century. Here the writer concentrates on the fine arts and their role in *Heimatkunst* or "Homeland Art" within the context of the Sorbs in Germany. 29 DM. ISBN 3-7420-0819-6.

Volksgruppen im Spannungsfeld von Recht und Souveränität in Mittel und Osteuropa (Ethnos nr. 40) published by Felix Ermacora, Hannes Tretter, Alexander Pelzi. 343 pages. A vast collection of essays from minority language and European experts concentrating mainly on ethnic groups and legal protection for them. Chapters are also included on the particular situation of linguistic minorties in Austria, Italy, successor states of former Yugoslavia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria as well as deliberations on the more general theme of national diversity in Eastern and Central Europe. Published by Wihelm Braumüller, Vienna. ISBN 3-7003-0992-9.

Child Care Terms – University of Wales Press, Cardiff. A Welsh/English/Welsh dictionary of childcare terms aimed at social services departments providing a minority language service, in this case Welsh, to children and their parents availing of such services. As well as words it includes commonly used set phrases. 134 pages. ISBN: 0-7083-1208-X.

Language Industries Atlas – edited by P. Hearn and D. Button, 1994, 418 pp. Price US$80. A comprehensive and detailed description of the many organisations which create the infrastructure within which languages develop and interact in a multilingual Europe. Over 1,000 descriptions are included in chapters on language organisations, standard bodies, teaching and learning, language planning, research institutes, research programmes, linguistic sources, user survey, press and television, publications and conferences. It was compiled from a questionnaire and telephone survey commissioned by the Directorate General XIII/E of the Commission of the European Union.

Educazione e Bilinguismo – Miguel Siguán And William F. Mackey. Translation to Italian from the original Spanish "Educación y Bilingüismo" by Stefania Ciminelli and published by INSULA, Sardinia, this, a 221 page book covers the broad theme of education and bilingualism concentrating on individual bilingualism, social bilingualism, bilingual education, psychological fundamentals, organisation and function of bilingualism and research and evaluation of results in bilingual education. The final pages include an extensive bibliography in addition to a list of documentation/study centres with a specific brief on this theme. 23,000 lira. ISBN: 9-788886-111003.

Linguistic Performance and Language Background – Bob Morris Jones. A report of a research project involving pupils in four Welsh-medium schools during 1989/90. As stated in the introduction to this book the aim of the study is to compare language performance of pupils from different language backgrounds attending Welsh-medium primary schools. The main factors concentrated on in the research are language performance, language background, medium of instruction and comparison of different pupils. For practical purposes concentration is on the written language only. Published by Aberystwyth Studies in Education, Faculty of Education, Unversity of Wales, Aberystwyth, Wales. ISBN: 1-85644-148-2. 169 pp.

Ar Lafar ac ar Bapur (On Writing and on Speaking) – Bob Morris Jones. A study of the differences between written and spoken Welsh, emphasising the linguistic and socio-linguistic aspects of the field of study. Also discussed in this publication are diglossia and bilingualism in an effort to measure the effect of each other as regards borrowing, mixing and exchanging languages, and loss of language. Price £14.95. ISBN 1-85644-149-0.

Histoire chronologique des pays celtiques – Jakez Gaucher. Association Keltica International, Guerande, Brittany. [1990] 2+396+2 pp. ill.

This superbly produced and lavishly illustrated book plots the course of history in six celtic countries: Isle of Man, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany and Cornwall. The first part (pp. 15-24) outlines graphically in two parallel columns the comparative histories of the Celts and the rest of the world from the eighth century BC to the seventh century AD.

More importantly, the second part

of the book (pp. 26-319) narrates the histories of the six celtic nations from the start of the Christian Era up to the present day (1987). The tables, maps and index at the end all contribute to make this an invaluable work.

1. **Una indagine sulla presenza della lingua locale nell'attività didattica delle scuole elementari friulane nell'anno scolastico 1989-90. Estratto da Ce Fastu? Rivista della Società Filologica Friulana "Graziadio I. Ascoli" 68 (1992) 1.**
2. **Il friulano come il bretone? Estratto da Ce Fastu? Rivista dela Società Filologica Friulana "Graziadio I. Ascoli" 63 (1987) 1.**
3. **L'esperenza scolastica per il frisone: indicazione per il friulano. Estratto da Ce Fastu? Rivista dela Società Filologica Friulana "Graziadio I. Ascoli" 66 (1990) 2.** – Lucio Peressi.

These three booklets, by the same author, were originally published as articles in the magazine of the Friulan Philological Society and deal with different aspects of Friulan-medium primary education. The first covers an investigation into the use of Friulan in schools which was conducted by the Education Department of the University of Udine. Based on a questionnaire, this survey was remarkable as the first such systematic inquiry.

The second and third booklets contain comparisons with the situations in Friesland and Brittany, focussing mainly on the legal position in education.

LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD/*Materials*. Among the sketches planned for publication 1994 in the Languages of the World/*Materials* series are four grammatical sketches on European Minority Languages: **Basque** (U. Lüders), **Corsican** (J.B. Marcellesi), **Souletin** (U. Lüders), **Welsh** (A. Thomas). Each issue contains a chapter on Phonology, Morphology and Syntax, a text with interlinear translation and a selected bibliography. DM 17.80 (+ DM 3 for carriage), 48/56pp., 210x148mm, laminated cover. Standing Order: DM 17.80/issue (no carriage fees). Selective Standing Order available (e.g.only sketches on European Minority Languages): DM 17.80/issue (no carriage fees). More than 60 titles are planned for 1994 (from *Armenian to Ukrainian*). Sketches on all European minority languages are welcome! For information write to: LINCOM EUROPA, P.O. Box 1316, D-85703 Unterschleissheim / München, Germany. FAX +49 89 314 8909.

D. BREATHNACH/W. JENNIGES

FUTURE EVENTS

Second European Conference on Immersion: Teaching and Second Language Acquisition. 21 September – 1 October 1994. Vasa/ Vaasa, Finland.

The aim of this conference is to provide a European forum for discussion at which parents, immersion teachers and researchers cann meet, exchange views and discuss teaching methods and materials as well as research results. Further information from: European Institute of Immersion Teaching, c/o University of Vasa, PO Box 700, SF-65101 Vasa, Finland. Tel: +358.61.3248462. Fax: +358.61.3122521.

Law and Languages of Education – Fourth International Conference on Language Law 1994. 14-17 September 1994. University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

The International Academy of Language Law, a multidisciplinary organisation established in 1984 and the International Academy of Language Law, founded in 1984 as a university institute undertaking interdisciplinary scientific research are jointly organising this conference, the fourth biennial international congress devoted to language. The last three conferences held in Montreal (1988), Hong Kong (1990) and Pretoria (1992) dealt respectively with the following subjects: "Language and Law", "Language and Law in Multilingual Environments" and "Language and Equality". Further information from: Institut du Fédéralisme, Rte d'Englisberg 7, CH-1763 Granges-Paccot, Switzerland. Tel: +41.37.219591. Fax: +41.37.219701.

Other Languages in Switzerland – III Conference on Plurilingulism, Monte Verità Centre, Ascona, Switzerland. 29 September – 1 October 1994.

Among the themes to be discussed at this conference will be "Migrants as Linguistic Minorities in Switzerland and in Europe", "Bilingual Education – big languages versus small languages", "Language development of Immigrant Children in the Netherlands". A round table discussion on the sociolinguistic and pedagogical aspects of migrants and languages without territories will close the conference. Further information from Osservatorio linguistico, Biblioteca Cantonal, via Cappucino 12, CH-6600 Locarno, Switzerland. Tel: +44.93.319172.

International Conference on Ladin School – 7-8 October 1994, at Conference Centre, Urtijë St. Ulrich Ortisei, Val Gardena, Italy.

Trilingual compulsory school, 50 years experience of trilingual schooling in the Ladin valleys. Contact address: Prof. Edith Ploner, Istitut Pedagogisch Ladin, Via Castel Roncolo 8, I-39100 Bulsan/ Bozen/Bolzano. Tel: +39.471.972272. Fax: +39.471.974548.

Cultural Ethnic Identity of European Identities – Continuity and Change. Gdansk, 15-17 September 1994.

Contact: Prof. Brunon Synak, University of Gdansk, Philosophy and Social Sociology, ul Bielauska 5, PL-Gdansk, Poland. Tel: +48.58.523423. Fax: +48.58.520311.

10th International Conference of Celtic Studies, University of Edinburgh, Scotland 23-29 July 1995.

Papers are now being sought in all areas of language, literature, history, art and archaeology. In particular the congress will seek to explore themes of identity and interaction under the provisional title 'Celtic Connections'. For further details write to: 10-ICCS, Dept of Celtic, University of Edinburgh, David Hume Tower, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JX, Scotland.

The Cultural Role of Minorities in the New European Reality – Trieste, 22-25 September 1994.

Further information available from: Key Tre, Via S. Caterina 7, I-34122 Trieste, Italy. Tel: 39.40.660352. Fax: +39.40.660353.

EUPEN DECLARATION

I. The Annual Assembly of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, held in Eupen (German-speaking Belgium) on 20 and 21 May 1994, having closely examined the situation of lesser used (regional or minority) languages in the member states of the European Union (EU) notes:

- that the question of lesser used languages has become a crucial factor in our society in developing a democratic, multicultural European Union (c.f. Maastricht Treaty).
  Official recognition of lesser used languages by member states as well as by European authorities, must be regarded as a decisive step in the building of a democratic Europe which meets the wishes of all citizens. We refer to the subsidiarity principle affirmed in the Maastricht Treaty.
  Recognition would ensure the democratic process and would help to avoid political discontent which is already evident in certain aspects of the development of the EU.
- that the fourth direct election of the European Parliament is a political event of the utmost importance for the Council of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages;
  – it is the first form of expression of the peoples following the passing of the Maastricht Treaty and is thus a confirmation of the EU by a global vote of the peoples of the member states;
  – geographical expansion, due to the reuinification of Germany will bring the number of MEPs to 567 (Edinburgh Protocol). Thus the number of speakers of lesser used languages play an important or even decisive role in the elections.
- We are pleased that, for example, the German-speaking community of Belgium has obtained its own constituency and that it can elect its own members by direct vote in the future parliament. However, we regret that in the case of some other member states the online state has only one constituency and that consequently certain lesser used language communities are unable to elect their own MEP.

II. The Council of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages points out that it is itself the result of an EP Resolution (Arfé Resolution) and it thus wishes:

- to further reinforce the links already existing between the Bureau and parliamentary institutions and, in particular, to deepen its fruitful cooperation with the Intergroup for Minority Languages;
- to extend this cooperation to all members of the new parliament and particularly to those who will be elected in areas where lesser used languages are spoken.

III. The Council of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages hopes that cooperation with the new Parliament will initiate and strengthen projects involving lesser used languages. We refer in particular to key domains for lesser used languages, such as:

- teaching in/of the mother tongue
- development of a media strategy – we refer to our Media Policy Document
- public administration and legislation
- community, commercial and voluntary initiatives

IV. We hope that the new Parliament accepts in full the contents of the resolutions already passed regarding lesser used languages. We rely on the commitment of parliamentarians for the practical implementation of resolutions e.g. the Arfé, Kuijpers and Killilea Resolutions. Such commitment should focus in particular on the following:

- Recognition of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages as the principal representative body for lesser used languages with the European Parliament and other European authorities;
- ensuring an adequate budget provision for the Bureau's activities;
- the inclusion of lesser used languages in the conception, planning and implementation of the Commission's action programmes, particularly in the areas of teaching and cultural development (e.g. Socrates and Leonardo action programmes);
- full recognition of the European Convention/Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe (c.f. Article 8 of the Killilea Resolution);
- to actively cooperate with the Committee of Regions to ensure the implementation of the proposals contained in this Declaration.

RECOGNITION OF THE WALSER COMMUNITY

"An important historical step"

"The German-speaking people of the Valle del Lys covered by the Regional law have a right to safeguard their own linguistic and cultural characteristics and traditions". Since 23 September 1993 the Walser community, too, has obtained official recognition of its existence. In adopting a constitutional law, the Italian parliament made amendments to the special status of the Val d'Aosta, and it introduced protection for the Walser minority side by side with the official status of the French and Italian languages. And not only that: the new article –40 bis– also guarantees "the teaching of German in schools through appropriate measures taking account of local needs".

A minority within a minority, the Walser –about 600 speakers out of a total of 1,000 inhabitants in the valley– has always had to fight to safeguard its own linguistic and cultural heritage. The municipalities in the Valle del Lys are the tangible proof of their attachment to traditions and history, in the face of adversity and the absence of recognition by the institutions. Today, the new constitutional provision represents a reward for their tenacity and courage.

Mr. Luciano Caveri, who is a

(Contd. p. 8)

Updating of Contact Bulletin Mailing List

Contact Bulletin is now updating its mailing list and requests readers to check that the address at which they receive the newsletter is correct. If not, we would be grateful if you could complete the form below and notify us of any changes, corrections or additions to the mailing list.

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Please complete and return to: **Diarmaid Breathnach, An Biúró Eorpach, 10 Sráid Haiste Íocht., Baile Átha Cliath 2, Ireland.**

RECOGNITION OF THE WALSER COMMUNITY (CONT.)

member of parliament for Val d'Aosta and who sponsored the amendment, says: “This provision, which has constitutional status, and which provides means to protect the Walser community, represents an important step and an exception in Italy, where the State has been unreceptive to the problems of minorities. It cannot be denied that the recognition of the little German-speaking community of Val d'Aosta takes on a historical significance if one considers that to date only the South Tyrolians, the Ladins of South Tyrol, the French-speakers in Val d'Aosta, and no one else, have been given recognition at constitutional level. Not even the Slovenes, who are a large linguistic group, have been recognised”. And he adds: “The failure to implement Article 6 of the Italian Constitution which provides for the protection of linguistic minorities is a very serious breach. And our joy at the recognition of the Walser must be accompanied by condemnation of this omission which is in breach of the Italian Constitution and the principles of international law”.

SILVIA CARREL

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We welcome your opinions, letters, articles, graphics... Please send these to: CONTACT BULLETIN, The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, 10 Sráid Haiste Íocht., Baile Átha Cliath 2, Ireland. Telephone: + 353.1.6612205/6618743/6618739. FAX: +353.1.6766840

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages seeks to conserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Union, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland, and as an ASBL in Belgium. It works in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the European Commission, the Irish Government, the Government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the Germanophone Community of Belgium.

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages

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Winter 1994/95

1 ECU

Glan-llyn Youth Conference 1994

Participants at the Gant-llyn Youth Conference

More than 20 participants, representing 13 lesser used language communities gathered in the picturesque setting of Glan-llyn, Wales from 1-4 June last for the annual youth conference organised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. Since January 1994 the European Bureau has nominated one youth representative for each member state committee thus ensuring a direct link between the Bureau and young speakers of our languages at grassroots level. Furthermore in an effort to reflect the needs expressed by young people the Bureau has established a youth advisory committee to help the Bureau formulate policy regarding youth and lesser used languages.

One of the main lacuna identified by this committee has been the lack of contact between young speakers of our languages throughout the EU and the lack of information filtering through to them from the EU on initiatives and programmes of which they can avail. It was within such a context that this conference was organised.

The aims of the conference were threefold: to observe the success story of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru (The Welsh Youth League); to provide information on European youth programmes and structures; and to discuss the development of transitional projects among the youth of lesser used language communities.

The Urdd Gobaith Cymru provided participants with an inspiring example of a vibrant, hard working and much appreciated youth organisation. The conference was held in the Urdd's Glan-llyn residential centre and one day was spent at the Urdd Eisteddfod, the annual six-day youth festival, where both modern and traditional aspects of Welsh culture are celebrated in song, poetry, dancing, art, rock competitions and lots more. Representatives of the organisation also explained in detail to participants during one of the conference's morning sessions the organisation's structure, its youth festival, residential centres, Resource Centre, and its three magazines.

The young participants also learned about European youth structures and youth funding available for their respective organisations. The European Coordination Bureau, The Youth Forum of the European Communities, The Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe, and Léargas – The Exchange Bureau (IRL) were all represented and looked favourably on our cause, i.e. the protection and promotion of lesser used languages amongst young speakers of these languages. Jean-Philippe Restoueix of the Youth Directorate (Council of Europe) attended and distributed copies of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and stayed for four days. Jillian Hassett, the Secretary General of the European Coordination Bureau (ECB), emphasised that there was no international non-governmental youth organisation as members of the ECB representing the activities of youth in lesser used language regions. Jenny Eades from "Léargas – The Exchange Bureau" explained the transitional programmes available for youth financed by the

continued over

Disappointment and Anger

No Place for Minorities and Ethnic Groups in the German Basic Law (Constitution)

It is extremely rare that the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein votes on the same motion twice. The decisions in February and August 1993 to establish in the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany an article concerning the protection and promotion of national minorities and ethnic groups, was the exception from the rule. They presented a climax in the debate about the reform of the Basic Law.

In 1990 the Treaty on German Unity called on the State Parliaments to examine, revise and, if necessary, amend the Basic Law. In Schleswig-Holstein, with its experience of successful minority policies, an initiative was launched which had as its aim to include in the Basic Law an article for the protection of minorities similar to that enshrined in the Constitution of Schleswig-Holstein itself. There were meetings between the Presidents of the Landtage (State Parliaments) of Saxony, Brandenburg and Schleswig-Holstein, motions by the State Government in the Bundesrat (the Upper House of the German Parliament), as well as solidarity campaigns and meetings of representatives of minorities.

However, even in the discussions held by the Joint Constitutional Commission (GVK), which published its final report in December 1993, only a clause expressing respect ("The State respects the identity of ethnic, cultural and linguistic minorities") could muster the required two-thirds majority. The protection and promotion of national minorities and ethnic groups was rejected. From January 1994 onwards the parliamentary parties of the Bundestag engaged in debate. It soon became clear that there was no majority favouring the protection and promotion of minorities, particularly in the CDU; indeed there were even great reservations about the clause expressing mere respect. For some deputies it went too far in its general sweep. Fear of new minorities forming and making claims made it seem unlikely that this minority clause would find a majority in the ensuing deliberations of the Bundestag itself.

With this in mind, the campaign originating in Schleswig-Holstein was accelerated. A summit was held in the Federal capital between representatives of Frisians, Danes, Sorbs, Sinti and Roma and political representatives, during which the necessity of such an article - also in relation to the European dimension - was again stressed. Another action, which caused furore not only in Bonn but further afield, was the solidarity action organised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Dublin, through its German Committee: minorities and ethnic groups from several European countries sent faxes and letters to the chairpersons of the parliamentary parties as well as to members of the Home and Legal Affairs Committees of the Bundestag to drive home the European dimension and to enlist support for the inclusion of the article. A rejection on a national level, they argued, would leave a "gap" in the protection of minorities between the State Constitutions of Germany and Europe.

The decision made by the Bundestag on 6 September 1994 to dispense with both a clause expressing respect and a clause pledging protection and promotion is disappointing yet, in a sense, consistent. In Bonn, too little is known about the situation of minorities and ethnic groups, there is too much talk in this context about issues of citizenship and policies regarding foreigners. People tend to forget that we are dealing here primarily with the rights of minorities and ethnic groups with German citizenship. There is still no fully developed awareness that a state consists of multiple domestic cultures. In this context it remains incomprehensible that the Federal Government demands rights for German minorities abroad but chooses to neglect the minorities with German citizenship in its own Basic Law.

At least the discussion about the inclusion of the article has led to a strengthening of co-operation among the minorities and ethnic groups in the Federal Republic, and has engendered a sense of solidarity and confirmed the necessity to establish a stronger lobby in Bonn.

Karl-Rudolf Fischer

Karl-Rudolf Fischer is head of the President's Office and in charge of minority issues in the Federal State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein.

Youth Conference (contd.)

European Union.

Among those present were delegates from YEN, Uteinrock, Cumann na bhFiann, Réseau Rock et Régions, Dazont, Slógadh, Radio Onde Furlane, FYK. These representatives came both to learn and to discuss future transnational projects, such as a European youth network, a youth festival for the youth of lesser used language communities, training and youth exchanges. The conference was also an opportunity for some of the newly appointed youth representatives on the Member State Committees of EBLUL to meet each other. In conclusion the Glan-llyn Youth Conference gave both food for thought and action for the youth of lesser used language communities.

Caoimhe Ní Lochlainn

The European Bureau is currently compiling a database of youth organisations of lesser used language communities and in order that the information compiled be as inclusive and up to date as possible we call on youth organisations from these communities to submit details of youth organisations in their region. Please send details to C. Ní Lochlainn at the European Bureau Head Office (see address back page).

MERCATOR MEDIA

Four young people have joined Mercator Media. They are all under 25 years of age and will stay with the project until July 1995. Rebecca Williams and Mared Roberts both come from Wales, Xabier Canosa from Galicia and Daviz Guardado from Asturias. Between them they have a sound knowledge of Welsh, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Galician, Asturian and Portuguese.

Mercator Media at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth collects data about the media of lesser-used languages within the European Union. The work programme for the present year includes:

- updating and expanding the database of media institutions
- publication of the first Mercator Media Forum – a journal of articles about the media of lesser-used languages
- final preparation of the second Mercator media Guide
- question and answer service to the media and the public in general
- expanding and developing our network of correspondents

For more information, please contact Mercator Media, Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth SY23 3AS, Cymru / Wales. Tel: +44.970. 622533 / 6. Fax: +44.970.622190 or e-mail Merc@uk.ac.aber

Premi Friul

Radio Onde Friuli has now released a tape of music from the 12th annual competition of music in the Friulan language. The cassette which is a compilation of music from rock bands and individuals covers a wide range of musical tastes from folk to punk to hard rock and electronic music. Friulan television broadcast the two hour event resulting in an increase from four to six hours of weekly programmes in the Friulan language! A tape and booklet on the above event are available from: Radio Onde Furlane, via Voltorno 29, I-33100 Udin-Friûl, ITALY.

MAX MAURO

French Education Minister's latest declaration on lesser used languages

In a recent article by Cristian Laus which appeared in the Occitan monthly **Aquò d'Aquí** French Education Minister Francés Bayrou was reported to have many positive things to say about the Occitan and its important role in the culture and identity of the region of Langue d'Oc Rousillon and Midi-Pyrénées. Minister Bayrou, during a visit to Toulouse for the signing of a convention between the Education Ministry and the Midi-Pyrénées Region spoke both in Occitan and in French and is the first French Minister to state that only through promoting the regional languages of France could the French language itself be protected from the threat of other major European languages.

Quoting Frederic Mistral, the Minister described language as the key to one's identity and that everyone had the right to one's own identity, history and to know and to practice the language that formed this identity. He continued by saying that the age of monolingualism had now passed and we need to maintain the languages we already have and therefore acknowledge our cultural identity, the right to our history, the right to know where we are going and where we are coming from.

Measures to be taken in the field of education announced by the Minister during the signing of the convention included doubling the number of CAPES posts in Occitan, the introduction of a diploma, on an experimental basis, in regional languages and the publication of a circular guaranteeing the status of regional languages in teaching and in education. To date, however, none of the above measures have been implemented. **DB**

New Magazine in Irish published in Wales

An Briathar Saor is the title of a new magazine to be published twice yearly in Cardiff, Wales with the aim of developing contact between people in Britain sharing a common interest in the Irish language. Those behind this venture recently came to the realisation that there were many groups throughout Britain learning Irish and coming together for informal conversations in the language but with little contact or communication with each other. The aim of this new magazine is to develop and improve such contact. Two editions per year will be published: on in the Spring and one in the Sutumn. Contents will include general articles on current affairs, short stories, cartoons, poems etc. in addition to contributions from Irish speakers outside of Britain. Anyone interested in subscribing to the magazine at a charge of £2 per year can contact: An Briathar Saor, c/o Patrick Egan, 7 Minny Street, Caerdydd CF2 4ER, WALES **DB**

Diploma in Language Planning

Euskararen Brripapaera, the newsletter of the General Secretariat of Linguistic Policy in the Basque Country announces in its September 1994 edition the offering of a Diploma in Language Planning at the Universidad del País Vasco. The course, which is in its second year, runs from 14 November to 5 July and aims at improving the qualifications of those working in the promotion of the Basque language. It is divided into four parts: theoretical comprehension (50 hours), planning, methodology and evaluation (54 hours), language planning in Euskal Herria (96 hours) and practical work (50 hours), and costs 75,000 pesetas.

DB

Dewi the Dinosaur

First results from the Britanny based Children's Publishing Secretariat is the publication last November in nine languages of *Dewi the Dinosaur*. Originally published by the Welsh publishing house ACEN, the Children's Publishing Secretariat, following contact and cooperation with other lesser used language publishing houses, will publish four stories in the series which will appear in Welsh, Gaelic, Irish, Breton, Occitan, Basque, Catalan, Corsican and Berber. For further information: Childrens Publishing Secretariat, 55 Hent-Dall on Odedd, F-29000 Kemper. Tel: +33.98.522282; fax: +33.98.647615.

International Network of Correspondents

The International Network of Correspondents (INC) was set up last year as a network of youth magazines throughout Europe to bring world culture to young people in their own language. One of its concrete results has been the publication in September 1994 of two magazines, Pyst (Friesland) and Ffrâl (Wales), from different lesser used language regions. Each magazine is aimed at the 16 to 25 age group and contains an identical core of 24 pages with similar articles and photographs which the magazines exchange with one another. While some articles are obtained through the Network others are regionally based thus giving the magazines both a regional and international content. These first issues contain articles on European fashion, clubs in and around Drachten (Friesland), the supernatural Welsh films etc. amongst many other themes. Copies of the Welsh language Ffrâl can be obtained from: Ffrâl, 15 Tan y Cae, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 1JF, Wales, while anyone interested in starting a youth magazine in a lesser used language and availing of the services of the INC are invited to contact Sytske de Boer/Peter Telfer, International Network of Correspondents, Nummer 16, NL-8832 KB Hûns, NETHERLANDS who are also responsible for the publication of Pyst.

Gallo and Bertaeyn Galeizz

Many readers of Contact Bulletin are familiar with the situation of Breton in Brittany but may not be as familiar with another variety spoken in eastern Brittany called "Gallo". Although represented on the French National Committee of the European Bureau as a variant of the Oïl group, Gallo today is spoken mainly in rural areas by older people. No official figures exist, however, it is estimated that over one million people have a basic conversational knowledge of the language and 300,000 are estimated to use it regularly in their daily lives. Gallo, like its neighbouring language Breton, is threatened by the powerful French language which surrounds it.

Bertaeyn Galeizz, an organisation created in 1976, has as its main aim to safeguard and to promote Gallo by organising various activities such as producing a Gallo version of Tintin and succeeding in having Gallo included as an option on the secondary school curriculum. In spite of the fact that there are no grammar books nor dictionaries available in the language approximately 1,000 schoolgoers choose this option every year. Those seeking further information on Gallo can write to Bertaeyn Galeizz at the following address: Bertran Obraèy, Bertaeyn Galeizz, Le borg, F-35160 Le Verjaer, Brittany. Tel: +33.99074522.

D. Breathnach (source Bertaeyn Galeizz newsletter)

YEN Seminar

The 1995 Easter Seminar of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) will take place in Klagenfurt, Austria, 8th-14th April. The central theme of the seminar will be "Differences between Nationalism and National Consciousness".

Nationalism is a very topical subject in Europe today. It is often difficult for ethnic minorities to defend their natural right in the various domains of our society (e.g. education, administration and jurisdiction), because minority members are easily accused of being nationalist. Campaigning for minority rights therefore often lacks understanding by members of the majority.

Every minority will have to communicate its aims in a positive and constructive way, making clear that violence can never be an instrument to protect the rights of minorities. How that should be done will be the topic of discussion in workshops on:

- politics
- secondary education
- matters concerning women's affairs in minorities
- ethnology
- visual arts
- music
- youth work in minorities

Klagenfurt is the capital of the region of Carinthia, where a Slovenian minority lives. The organising committee is a cooperation between the Slovenian Students' Associations in Klagenfurt and Vienna, and youth members of the Slovenian political party Mlada EL in Klagenfurt.

For further information please contact:
Klaas Johan Osinga, 48-B,
Celebesstraat, NL-9715 JJ
GRINS Groningen.
Tel: +31.59962577.
Fax: +31.59962505.

New Publications from the European Bureau

The Vallée d'Aoste – a range of resources

Available in Italian, French and English, this publication is the first in the European Languages series, a series of colour booklets on lesser used language regions of the EU. This edition of 43 pages, written by Anna Maria Traversa, professor of French language and civilisation in the Aosta Valley, describes in detail the Valley, its geography, its history and its linguistic composition: both French and Italian are official languages throughout the region while Franco-Provençal is the language of daily communication and in the lower valleys one can find a very small number of speakers of the German Walser dialects of 'Titsch' and 'Töitschu'. Chapters in the booklet also provide clear descriptions of the legal status of the languages spoken here in addition to the historical reasons and factors leading to their presence in North Western Italy. It is hoped that the next publications in this series will be on Gàidhlig in Scotland and North Frisian (Friisk) and Saterland Frisian (Seeltersk) in Germany. ISBN 90-74851-12-6.

The Sound of Europe

The first in the "Living Languages" series published last year in French and English (v. CB 10.3) is now available in Italian, German and Irish. Emphasising the intellectual and developmental advantages of young bilingual children the booklet aims at encouraging parents to provide their children with multilingual education. A video based on this booklet will be available early next year. Parlare l'Europa: 9-789074-851091. Die Klänge Europas: 9-789074-851107.

Vade Mecum

The *Vade Mecum Guide to Legal Documents, Support Structures and Action Programmes pertaining to the Lesser Used Languages of Europe* is a collection of texts and extracts from important documents of major institutions and worldwide bodies which have adopted positive positions vis-a-vis lesser used languages. Such a publication will be of use to people seeking texts relating to lesser used languages which are available to the public but difficult to obtain from the large institutions which produce them. Price 8 ECU. ISBN 1 870675 05 3(Eng) / 1 870675 06 1 (French).

Language Rights, Individual and Collective

Language Rights, Individual and Collective is the second publication in the series *Living Languages* and deals with the broad area of the use of lesser used languages in public administration. The reader here is given an overview of provision (or lack of) for our languages in public administration throughout the European Union and the end result is a very varied picture. Some States totally ignore the very existence of some languages while other states give only minimal recognition to our languages in the important domain of public administration. The booklet, however, also contains

Present at the launch in Dublin of the Bureau's latest publications were from left to right: Dónall Ó Riagáin (Secretary General EBLUL), John Gormley (Lord Mayor of Dublin), Helen Ó Murchú (President EBLUL) and Peadar Ó Flatharta (President, EBLUL Irish Committee).

New Publications from the European Bureau

examples of creative thinking and admirable dedication such as the normalisation of Catalan in all areas of public administration in Catalonia and the widespread teaching of Basque to public servants and the effective implementation of bilingual policy in the city of Brussels. Written by Sylvia Carrel, Information Officer with the European Bureau's Information Centre in Brussels, this booklet is a rich source of ideas and inspiration showing what can and has been done to increase our languages' profile in public administration in an effort to overcome marginalisation in this very important field.

Price 3 ECU. ISBN 90 74851 06 (Eng) / 90 74851 04 5 (French)

Database of Cultural Activities 2

This, the second edition in a series of databases on cultural activities, consists of a listing of cultural documentation centres throughout the European Union providing information in and about lesser used languages. The first edition containing a listing of semi-professional theatre groups and umbrella organisations involved in producing or organising lesser used language theatre (v. CB 10.3). The database is part of a large project being undertaken by the European Bureau's Information Centre in Brussels aimed at providing as much information as possible to the general public on the cultural activities of lesser used language communities. For copies of this publication or for further information on this project please contact Wolfgang Jenniges at the Brussels Information Centre (address back page). Price 4 ECU

Also available

The Bureau's general information brochure *Unity in Diversity* in Irish and Dutch which provides an overall picture of the languages and cultures of the European Union and their present status within this Union and the **Annual Report of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages – 1993**

All of the above publications are available from the Bureau's addresses (see back page) with the exception of the Irish version of 'The Sound of Europe (An Eoraip ag Caint)' which is available directly from Coiste na hEireann den mBETN, f/ch Dáithí Ó Dufaigh, 26 Cearnóg Mhuirfean, IRL-Baile Átha Cliath 2. ISBN 9-789074-851091.

New Publications from Mercator-Education

Mercator Guide to Organisations – 1994 additions and updates (loose-leafed)

This year's additions and updates cover over sixty organisations new to the MGO, plus over eighty revised descriptions of organisations published earlier; three had to be deleted because the organisations are not active any more. One country, Austria, is included for the first time.

The 1994 additions and updates are useful for all those who already possess the MGO (1990) and its additions.

Bilingualism, Bilingual Education and the Teaching of Regional or Minority Languages; a selective biography. First Provisional edition. Feen, NJ van der and SJ van der Wal, eds. Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Mercator Education, 1992 (loose-leafed).

The 1991/92 production contains the description of publications on the above mentioned themes. Over 400 entries and an author index have been included. The bibliography has been printed on A4 format leaves, to be entered into regular A4 document files by the user.

Provision of Learning Materials: for primary and pre-primary education – Tjeerdsma RS en JA Sikma, Ljouwert/Leeuwarden: Fryske Akademy, Mercator-Education 1994 – xi, 335p: ill, map, tab. 25cm (Education of regional or minority languages in the EU – PREP).

Pre-prmary education, ASj van der Goot, WJT Renkema and MB Stuijt (eds), Ljouwert/Leeuwarden: Fryske Akademy, Mercator-Education 1994 – x, 410p: ill, maps, tab. 25cm (Education of regional or minority languages in the EU – PREP).

This summer two inventories have been published in the framework of the Mercator-Education series "Teaching of regional or minority languages in the European Union" each of them dealing with a specific aspect of minority language teaching. Teaching through the minority language as well as the teaching of the minority language are central themes, while resources and perceived needs form core issues. In the two publications overviews are given of the provision of learning materials and of pre-primary education, respectively. An overview of tendencies in education practice in the various communities is presented on the basis of reports, which have been written by experts from the communities concerned. All the reports in the two inventories are presented in the language in which they were originally written, as well as in English.

The two inventories are the result of studies carried out by Mercator-Education. The first one, called *Provision of Learning Materials* describes and compares the production and distribution of learning materials in 22 language communities and also contains conclusions and recommendations for practice and policy on various levels. In the second inventory, called *Pre-primary Education*, the education of and through minority languages and its political and educational backgrounds in sixteen communities are dealt with.

Further information from:
Mercator-Education, PO Box 54,
Fryske Akademy, Doelestrjitte 8,
NL-8900 AB Ljouwert/
Leeuwarden.

II INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND LEGISLATION

– *Linguistic Rights in the New Europe*

The First International Symposium on European Languages and Legislation was held in Santiago de Compostela, the regional capital of Galicia, from 16 to 18 October 1992. A symposium which, as was pointed out in the information leaflet, besides being the first of its kind on the subject to be held in Europe, aimed actively to contribute to highlighting linguistic inequalities in Europe and defining alternatives to facilitate the widespread use of all European languages on equal terms.

As the title of the Symposium indicates, problems dealt with covered a wide range. For this reason the organisers took the measure of adopting the title Symposium I so that others would have to be held in order to develop some aspects which could not be touched upon in any depth at that time. Therefore – and it must be added, following the express desire of the majority of participants in Symposium I – Symposium II will be held, to analyse linguistic rights in the light of political and economic progress and the enlargement of the European Union.

It will also concentrate therefore on the transformation in 1993 of the European Community into the European Union, a change of name which denotes a different focus in the manner of thinking and acting both at present and in the future. The agreements which brought about this change, of course, directly affect European citizens and their different spheres of expression. They affect their cultures, languages and systems of political organisation. In this context, we must again ask ourselves what has to be done so that minority languages spoken in Europe do not fall by the wayside once more or find themselves in a situation more akin to the wildlife preserve than to cultural vitality. The Symposium will also address the addition of more lesser used languages to the Union as a result of the accession of new member states in 1995, and how to deal with "small" languages in a "greater" Europe.

It is, however, encouraging that bodies serving an enlarged Europe, such as the Council of Europe and the European Conference on Security and Cooperation should speak out on the need to respect minority languages, just as it is necessary to uphold the rights of minorities (ethnic, linguistic, religious...), at a historic moment when explicit violation of these rights makes it all the more evident that a Europe for all is not viable unless all can participate in the plan: each with their own linguistic and cultural uniqueness.

In view of the above and in the realisation that in order to arrive at linguistic equality for all Europeans, it is necessary to guarantee public and private use of all languages spoken in Europe and to overcome, on the one hand, complexes deriving from discriminatory positions and, on the other, terminology applied to languages which divides them into superior and inferior and setting them at legal loggerheads, we must: 1) seriously and deeply analyse situations which allow for such inequalities, and 2) come up with reasoned, courageous and firm proposals aimed at those who are drawing up the future language map of Europe, in order to be able to put an end to discriminatory processes at this extremely important historical time.

Coinciding with these objectives, PEN CLUB INTERNATIONAL (in particular its Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee) has planned a World Conference on Linguistic Rights for 1996 in Barcelona. When members of the Catalonia PEN Club and CIEMEN were put in contact with one another, they decided to accomodate both projects in a single venture and institute the Symposium as a preparatory step for what will be the most important event to be held in Barcelona in 1996, culminating in the proclamation of the First World Declaration on the linguistic rights of peoples. PEN CLUB INTERNATIONAL (Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee) and CIEMEN joined forces in organisating of two international conferences, the first in the form of a preparatory Symposium to debate European reality and the second in the form of a World Conference where lines of analysis and conclusions drawn by the Symposium would be integrated into a debate widening out from Europe to encompass world linguistic realities.

Symposium II on Languages and Legislation in Europe, details of which are as follows: Date: 2-4 March 1995. Venue: Gandia, País Valencia. Organisers: Direcció General de Política Lingüística de la Generalitat Valenciana, Ajuntament de Gandia, CEIC Alfons el Vell de Gandia, CIEMEN, PEN CLUB INTERNACIONAL (Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee), Agència Europea per a les llengües minoritzades, Asociación Sócio-Pedagóxica Galega. In conjunction with: Comisión de la Comunidades Europeas, Direcció General de Polita Lingüística de la Generalitat

(cont p. 8)

Irish Broadcasts on Satellite

Raidió na Gaeltachta, Ireland's national Irish language radio service is now broadcasting live on the Astra satellite on Saturday mornings from 11.00 to 13.00 (Irish time). This service is part of Ireland's national broadcasting service's 24 hour radio transmission on Channel 22 of Astra which broadcasts to most of Western Europe at an audio frequency of 7.56 MHz. To tune into the Irish language broadcast switch to Channel 22 and tune into the 7.56 MHz sound frequency. You will receive the programme in reception as clear as FM radio through the speakers of your TV set, albeit with an unwanted picture. Technical details: Astra 1b satellite at 19.2 degrees East, Channel 22, 11.538 GHz, vertical polarisation, audio sub-carrier 7.56MHz).

SYMPOSIUM ON EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND LEGISLATION

Valenciana, Ajuntament de Gandia, Direcció General de Recerca de la Generalitat de Catalunya.
General Secretariat for the Symposium: Néstor Novell/ Salvador Almenar, CEIC Alfons el vell/Ajuntament de Gandia, Plaça del Rei Jaume I, s/n, 46700 GANDIA. Tel: +34.6.2876551. Fax: +34.3.2875286.
Symposium Coordinators: Aureli Argemí/Oriol Ramon, CIEMEN (Centre Internacional Escarré per a les Minories Ètniques i les Nacions), Pau Claris, 106 1er 1a, 08009 Barcelona. Tel: +34.3.3020144. Fax: +34.3.4120890. and Dolores Torres/ Enric Català, Generalitat Valenciana, Direcció General de Política Lingüística, Av. Campanar, 32, 46015 València. Tel: +34.6.3863219. Fax: +34.6.3863310.

ORIOL RAMON

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages seeks to conserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Union, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland, and as an ASBL in Belgium. It works in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the European Commission, the Irish Government, the Government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the Germanophone Community of Belgium.

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Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues

CONTACT BULLETIN

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Conférence de la jeunesse 1994 à Glan-llyn

Participants à la conférence de la jeunesse de Glan-llyn

Plus de 20 participants représentant 13 communautés de langues moins répandues se sont réunis dans le cadre pittoresque de Glan-llyn, au pays de Galles du 1er au 4 juin 1994 pour la conférence annuelle de la jeunesse organisée par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues. Depuis janvier 1994, le Bureau européen a nommé un représentant de la jeunesse pour chaque comité d'État membre, garantissant ainsi qu'un lien direct existe entre le Bureau et les jeunes locuteurs de nos langues. De plus, pour s'efforcer de traduire les besoins exprimés par les jeunes, le Bureau a établi un comité consultatif de la jeunesse chargé de l'aider à formuler une politique relative à la jeunesse et aux langues moins répandues.

Une des principales lacunes identifiées par ce comité est le manque de contact entre les jeunes locuteurs de nos langues à travers l'Union européenne et le manque d'information leur parvenant de l'Union européenne sur les initiatives et les programmes dont ils peuvent bénéficier. C'est dans ce contexte que cette conférence a été organisée.

L'objectif de la conférence était triple : observer la réussite de Urdd Gobaith Cymru (la Ligue de la Jeunesse galloise); fournir de l'information sur les structures et les programmes européens destinés à la jeunesse; et discuter du développement de projets transnationaux concernant la jeunesse des communautés de langue moins répandue.

Avec Urdd Gobaith Cymru, les participants ont pu observer et être inspirés par l'exemple d'une organisation pour la jeunesse pleine de dynamisme, qui ne regarde pas à la tâche et qui est très appreciée. La conférence a eu lieu dans le centre résidentiel de Urdd à Glan-llyn et une journée a été passée au Urdd Eisteddfod, le festival annuel de la jeunesse qui dure six jours et au cours duquel on célèbre les aspects aussi bien modernes que traditionnels de la culture galloise à travers la chanson, la poésie, la danse, les beaux-arts, des concours de rock et bien plus encore. Par ailleurs, lors de l'une des séances du matin de la conférence, des représentants de l'organisation ont exposé de façon détaillée aux participants la structure de l'organisation, son festival de la jeunesse, ses centres résidentiels, son Centre de Ressources et ses trois magazines.

Les jeunes participants ont également été informés sur les structures destinées à la jeunesse existant en Europe et les fonds pour la jeunesse qui sont disponibles pour leurs organisations respectives. Le Bureau européen de Coordination, le Forum Jeunesse de la Communauté européenne, la Direction de la Jeunesse du Conseil de l'Europe et Léargas-The Exchange Bureau (Bureau d'Échanges, Irlande) étaient tous représentés et regardaient d'un oeil favorable notre cause, c'est à dire la protection et la promotion des langues moins répandues parmi les jeunes locuteurs de ces langues. Jillian Hassett, la Secrétaire Général du Bureau européen de Coordination (BEC), a souligné qu'il n'y avait aucune organisation non gouvernementale internationale pour la jeunesse, membre du BEC, qui représentait les activités de la jeunesse dans les régions de langue moins répandue. Jenny Eades de Léargas-The Exchange Bureau a présenté les programmes transnationaux destinés à la jeunesse et financés par l'Union européenne.

YEN, Uteinrock, Cumann na bhFiann, Réseau Rock et Régions,

(suite page 2)

FL026310

DÉCEPTION ET COLÈRE

Pas de place pour les minorités et les groupes ethniques dans la Loi fondamentale allemande (Constitution)

Par Karl-Rudolf Fischer

Il est extrêmement rare que le Parlement de l'Etat du Schleswig-Holstein se prononce deux fois sur la même motion. Les décisions de février et août 1993 relatives à l'insertion d'un article concernant la protection et la promotion des minorités nationales et groupes ethniques dans la Loi fondamentale de la République fédérale d'Allemagne furent les exceptions à la règle et le point culminant du débat sur la réforme de la Loi fondamentale.

En 1990, le Traité d'unification de l'Allemagne appelait les Parlements des États à examiner, réviser et, si nécessaire, amender la Loi fondamentale. Au Schleswig-Holstein, où une politique relative aux minorités a été mise en oeuvre avec succès, une initiative fut lancée visant à introduire dans la Loi fondamentale un article sur la protection des minorités similaire à celui qui se trouve dans la Constitution du Schleswig-Holstein lui-même. Il y eut des réunions entre les présidents des Landtage (Parlements des Etats) de Saxe, Brandebourg et Schleswig-Holstein, des motions présentées par le Gouvernement d'Etat au Bundesrat (Conseil fédéral), des campagnes de solidarité et des réunions de représentants des minorités.

Quoi qu'il en soit, même dans les débats tenus par la Commission constitutionnelle mixte (GVK), qui a publié son rapport final en décembre 1993, seule une clause mentionnant le respect ("L'Etat respecte l'identité des minorités ethniques, culturelles et linguistiques") put rassembler la majorité requise de deux tiers. La protection et promotion des minorités nationales et des groupes ethniques fut rejetée. A partir de janvier 1994, les groupes parlementaires du Bundestag sont entrés en discussion. Il s'avéra vite évident qu'il n'y avait pas de majorité en faveur de la protection et la promotion des minorités, notamment au sein de la CDU et qui plus est, de considérables réserves à propos de la clause exprimant le simple respect furent émises. Certains députés considéraient qu'elle allait trop loin et que sa portée était trop générale. Étant donné la peur qui existait de voir de nouvelles minorités se former et faire des revendications, il était improbable qu'une majorité supporte cette clause concernant les minorités lors des délibérations subséquentes du Bundestag même.

En tenant compte de cela, la campagne qui avait été amorcée au Schleswig-Holstein s'accéléra. Un sommet eut lieu dans la capitale fédérale entre des représentants des Frisons, des Danois, des Sorabes et des Tsiganes d'une part et des représentants politiques d'autre part, au cours duquel on souligna de nouveau la nécessité d'un tel article, en particulier en ce qui concerne la dimension européenne. Une autre action, qui provoqua un tumulte et pas seulement à Bonn, fut l'action de solidarité organisée par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, par l'intermédiaire de son comité allemand : des minorités et des groupes ethniques de plusieurs pays européens envoyèrent des télécopies et des lettres aux présidents des groupes parlementaires ainsi qu'aux membres des Commissions juridique et de l'Intérieur du Bundestag afin de faire valoir l'aspect européen et de rallier des partisans pour l'inclusion de la clause. Ils soutenaient qu'un rejet à un niveau national aboutirait à une divergence entre les Constitutions de l'Allemagne et de l'Europe en ce qui concerne la protection des minorités.

La décision prise par le Bundestag le 6 septembre 1994 de ne pas inclure de clause exprimant le respect ni de clause garantissant la protection et la promotion des minorités est décevante mais, d'une certaine façon, cohérente. On ne sait que trop peu de choses, à Bonn, sur la situation des minorités et groupes ethniques et on parle trop, à cet égard, des questions de citoyenneté et de politique relative aux étrangers. Les gens ont tendance à oublier qu'il est ici principalement question des droits de minorités et groupes ethniques jouissant de la citoyenneté allemande. On n'a pas encore pris pleinement conscience du fait qu'un Etat est formé de multiples cultures nationales. Dans ce contexte, il est incompréhensible que d'un côté, le gouvernement fédéral réclame des droits pour les minorités allemandes à l'étranger et, de l'autre côté, qu'il choisisse de négliger les minorités ayant la citoyenneté allemande dans sa propre Loi fondamentale.

Les discussions relatives à l'inclusion de l'article auront au moins abouti à un renforcement de la coopération entre les minorités et groupes ethniques dans la République fédérale, fait naître un sentiment de solidarité et confirmé la nécessité d'établir un lobby plus puissant à Bonn.

Karl-Rudolf Fischer est le responsable du Cabinet du Président et est chargé des questions relatives aux minorités au Landtag (Parlement régional) du Schleswig-Holstein.

Conférence (suite)

Dazont, Slógadh, Radio Onde Furlane, FYK, pour n'en citer que quelques unes, faisaient partie des organisations et des manifestations pour la jeunesse représentées lors de cette conférence. Ces représentants étaient venus pour s'informer mais aussi pour discuter de futurs projets transnationaux tels qu'un Réseau européen de la Jeunesse, un Festival de la jeunesse destiné aux jeunes des communautés de langue moins répandue, des stages et des échanges de jeunes. La conférence a d'autre part été l'occasion pour quelques-uns des nouveaux représentants de la jeunesse aux comités des Etats membres du BELMR de se rencontrer. La conférence de la jeunesse a certainement fourni matière à réflexion ainsi que des directions d'action pour la jeunesse des communautés de langue moins répandue.

CAOIMHE NÍ LOCHLAINN

Le Bureau européen est actuellement en train d'établir une base de données des organisations pour la jeunesse des communautés de langue moins répandue. Afin que celle-ci soit aussi complète et à jour que possible, nous demandons à tous les organismes pour la jeunesse de ces communautés de bien vouloir nous faire parvenir les détails nécessaires concernant de telles organisations dans leur région. Veuillez les adresser à C. Ní Lochlainn, au siège du Bureau européen (voir adresse en dernière page).

Mercator Média

Quatre jeunes personnes sont entrées à Mercator-Média. Elles ont toutes moins de 25 ans et participeront à notre projet jusqu'en juillet 1995. Rebecca Williams et Mared Roberts viennent tous deux du pays de Galles, Xabier Canosa de Galice et Daviz Guardado des Asturies. À eux tous, ils possèdent une bonne connaissance du gallois, de l'anglais, de l'allemand, du français, de l'italien, de l'espagnol, du galicien, de l'asturien et du portugais.

Mercator-Média, basé à l'Université du pays de Galles à Aberystwyth, rassemble des données sur les médias des langues moins répandues de l'Union européenne. Le programme de travail pour l'année en cours comprend :

- l'actualisation et l'augmentation de la base de données des institutions médiatiques
- la publication du premier Mercator-Média Forum, une revue composée d'articles relatifs aux médias des langues moins répandues
- la phase finale de la préparation du deuxième Guide de Mercator-Média
- un service de questions et réponses pour les médias et le public en général
- l'augmentation et le développement de notre réseau de correspondants

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez vous adresser à : Mercator-Média, Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth SY23 3AS, Cymru/pays de Galles (RU). Tél. : (44) 970 622 533/6 - Télécopie : (44) 970 622 190 ou courrier électronique Merc@uk.ac.aber.

Premi Friul

Radio Onde Friuli vient de faire paraître en cassette la musique du douzième concours annuel de musique en langue frioulane. Mélange musical très varié, allant du folk au punk en passant par le hard rock et la musique électronique, cette cassette est une compilation provenant de groupes de rock et d'individus. La télévision frioulane a diffusé l'événement qui dure deux heures augmentant ainsi de 4 à 6 heures la programmation hebdomadaire en langue frioulane ! Vous pouvez vous procurer la cassette et le dépliant de cet événement en vous adressant à : Radio Onde Furlane, via Voltorno 29, I-33100 Udin-Friûl, Italie.

Max Mauro

Dernière déclaration du ministre de l'Education nationale français concernant les langues moins répandues

D'après un article récent de Cristian Laus publié dans le mensuel occitan *Aquò d'Aquí*, le ministre de l'Education, Françés Bayrou, aurait eu de nombreuses choses positives à dire sur la langue occitane et le rôle important qu'elle tient dans la culture et l'identité des régions Languedoc-Roussillon et Midi-Pyrénées. A Toulouse pour la signature d'une convention entre le ministère de l'Education et la région Midi-Pyrénées, Monsieur Bayrou s'est exprimé en français et en occitan. C'est le premier ministre français à affirmer que c'est seulement en promouvant les langues régionales de France qu'on pourra protéger la langue française elle-même des principales langues européennes qui la menacent.

Citant Frédéric Mistral, le ministre a explique que la langue est la clé de l'identité et que chacun a droit à sa propre identité, sa propre histoire et le droit de connaître et de pratiquer la langue qui a formé cette identité. Il a ajouté que le temps du monolinguisme était révolu et que nous avions besoin de préserver les langues que nous possédons déjà et par conséquent de reconnaître notre identité culturelle, le droit à notre histoire, le droit de savoir d'où nous venons et où nous allons.

Au cours de la signature de la convention, le ministre a annoncé des mesures qui seront prises dans le domaine de l'éducation parmi lesquelles le doublement du nombre de postes pour les titulaires du C.A.P.E.S. en occitan, la création, sur une base expérimentale, d'un diplôme en langues régionales et la publication d'une circulaire garantissant le statut des langues régionales dans le domaine de l'éducation. Néanmoins, aucune de ces mesures n'a été à ce jour mise en oeuvre.

Nouvelle revue en irlandais publiée au pays de Galles

"An Briathar Saor" est le titre d'une nouvelle revue semestrielle qui sera publiée à Cardiff, au pays de Galles, en vue de développer les contacts entre les personnes en Grande-Bretagne qui ont en commun un intérêt pour la langue irlandaise. Les individus à l'origine de cette initiative se sont rendus compte que bon nombre de gens à travers la Grande-Bretagne apprenaient l'irlandais et se rassemblaient en petits groupes de conversation pour parler la langue tout en n'ayant que très peu de contacts ou de communication entre eux. Développer et améliorer de tels contacts est l'objectif de cette revue.

Deux numéros sortiront par an: l'un au printemps, l'autre à l'automne. Ils contiendront des articles sur des questions d'actualité, des nouvelles, des dessins humoristiques, des poèmes etc. auxquels s'ajouteront des contributions d'irlandophones résidant en dehors de la Grande-Bretagne. Prix de l'abonnement annuel: 2 livres sterling. Toute personne intéressée peut s'adresser à : "An Briathar Saor", c/o Patrick Egan, 7 Minny Street, Caerdydd CF2 4ER, PAYS DE GALLES.

Diplôme de planification linguistique

Euskararen Brripapaera, le bulletin du Secrétariat général de politique linguistique au Pays basque, annonce dans son numéro du mois de septembre 1994, la création d'un diplôme de planification linguistique à l'Universidad del País Vasco. Le cours, qui en est à sa deuxième année, a lieu du 14 novembre au 5 juillet et vise à améliorer les qualifications des personnes travaillant à la promotion de la langue basque. Il comprend quatre parties: compréhension théorique (50 heures), planification, méthodologie et évaluation (54 heures), planification linguistique dans le Euskal Herria (96 heures), travaux pratiques (50 heures) et coûte 75 000 pesetas.

DB

Dewi le dinosaure

Premiers résultats émanant du Secrétariat à la coédition enfantine basé en Bretagne: la publication en novembre dernier de Dewi le dinosaure en neuf langues. Publiant à l'origine chez ACEN, la maison d'édition galloise, le Secrétariat à la coédition enfantine, ayant établi des contacts et une coopération avec d'autres maisons d'édition en langues moins répandues, a publié quatre histoires dans cette collection qui sont parues en gallois, en gaélique, en irlandais, en breton, en occitan, en basque, en catalan, en corse et en berbère. Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez vous adresser au Secrétariat à la coédition enfantine, 55 Hent-Dall on Odedd, F-29000 Kemper, France. Tél. : +33 98-52-22-82; télécopie: +33 98-64-76-15.

Réseau international de correspondants

Le Réseau international de correspondants [International Network of Correspondents (INC)] a été créé l'année dernière. Il s'agit d'un réseau européen de magazines destinés à la jeunesse visant à apporter aux jeunes la culture mondiale dans leur propre langue. Un de ses résultats concrets a été la publication, en septembre 1994, de deux magazines, Pyst (Frise) et Ffrâl (pays de Galles), provenant de différentes régions de langue moins répandue. Chaque magazine s'adresse aux 16 - 25 ans et contient une partie centrale identique de 24 pages avec des articles et des photographies similaires que les magazines s'échangent entre eux. Si certains articles sont obtenus grâce au Réseau, d'autres proviennent de la région, donnant ainsi aux magazines un contenu aussi bien régional qu'international. Dans ces premiers numéros, figurent, entre autres, des articles sur la mode européenne, les clubs de Drachten (Frise) et de sa région, le supernaturel, les films gallois etc. Pour obtenir des exemplaires de Ffrâl en langue galloise, adressez-vous à : Ffrâl, 15 Tan y Cae, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 1JF, pays de Galles. Toute personne désireuse de lancer un magazine pour la jeunesse en une langue moins répandue et de profiter des services du INC est priée de contacter Sytske de Boer / Peter Telfer, International Network of Correspondents, Nummer 16, NL-8832 KB Húns, Pays-Bas qui sont également responsables de la publication de Pyst.

Le gallo et Bertaeyn Galeizz

De nombreux lecteurs de Contact-Bulletin connaissent bien la situation du breton en Bretagne mais il se peut qu'ils ne soient pas aussi au fait d'une autre langue moins répandue parlée dans l'est de la Bretagne s'appelant le gallo. Bien qu'elle soit représentée au Comité français national du Bureau européen comme une variante du domaine d'Oïl, le gallo est aujourd'hui parlé principalement dans les zones rurales par des personnes âgées. Aucun chiffre officiel n'est disponible, cependant l'on estime que plus d'un million de personnes ont une connaissance de base de la langue parlée et que 300 000 s'en servent régulièrement quotidiennement. Le gallo est donc une langue moins répandue et, comme son voisin le breton, menacé par la puissante langue française qui l'entoure.

Bertaeyn Galeizz, une organisation créée en 1976, a comme but principal la sauvegarde et la promotion du gallo par l'organisation de diverses activités telle que la production d'une version en gallo de Tintin et a réussi à faire en sorte que le gallo soit inclus comme option au programme scolaire du secondaire. En dépit du fait qu'il n'y ait ni livres de grammaire, ni dictionnaires disponibles dans cette langue, environ 1 000 écoliers choisissent cette option tous les ans. Pour plus de renseignements, s'adresser à: Bertran Obraéy, Bertaeyn Galeizz, Le bórg, F-35160 Le Verjaer, Bretagne; téléphone. : + 33 99 07 45 22.

DB (source : Lettre d'information de Bertaeyn Galeizz)

Séminaire YEN(JCEE)

Le Séminaire de Pâques 1995 de la Jeunesse des communautés ethniques européennes (YEN) se tiendra à Klagenfurt, en Autriche, du 8 au 14 avril. Le thème principal du séminaire sera: "Différences entre nationalisme et conscience nationale".

Le nationalisme est un sujet très d'actualité en Europe aujourd'hui. Il est souvent difficile pour les minorités ethniques de défendre leurs droits naturels dans les divers secteurs de notre société (éducation, administration, juridiction) car on les accuse aisément d'être nationalistes. En conséquence, faire campagne pour les droits des minorités est souvent mal compris par les membres de la majorité.

Chaque minorité devra communiquer ses objectifs de façon positive et constructive, en faisant clairement comprendre que la violence ne peut jamais être un instrument pour protéger les droits des minorités. Comment ceci devrait être fait sera le sujet de discussions lors d'ateliers sur :

- la politique
- l'enseignement secondaire
- les questions concernant la femme dans les minorités
- l'ethnologie
- les arts visuels
- la musique
- le travail pour la jeunesse dans les minorités

Klagenfurt est la capitale de la région de Carinthie, où vit une minorité slovène. Le comité organisateur est composé des associations des étudiants slovènes de Klagenfurt et de Vienne et de membres de la jeunesse du parti politique slovène Mlada EL de Klagenfurt.

Pour de plus amples informations, veuillez contacter : Klaas Johan Osinga, 48-B, Celebesstraat, NL-9715 JJ Grins/Groningue. Tél. : + 31 59962577. Télécopie: + 31 59962505.

Nouvelles publications du Bureau européen

La Vallée d'Aoste - un éventail de ressources

Cette publication, disponible en italien, en français et en anglais, est la première de la série Langues européennes, une collection de brochures en couleurs sur les régions de langue moins répandue de l'Union européenne. Cet ouvrage de 43 pages, rédigé par Anna Maria Traversa, professeur de langue et de civilisation françaises dans la Vallée d'Aoste, décrit de façon détaillée la vallée, sa géographie, son histoire et sa composition linguistique. Le français et l'italien sont tous deux des langues officielles dans l'ensemble de la région tandis que le franco-provençal est la langue de communication quotidienne et que dans les basses vallées on trouve un très petit nombre de locuteurs des dialectes walser allemands 'titsch' et 'töitschu'. Plusieurs chapitres exposent clairement le statut juridique des langues qui y sont parlées ainsi que les raisons et facteurs historiques qui expliquent leur présence dans cette région nord-ouest de l'Italie. On espère que la prochaine publication dans cette série s'intéressera au gaélique en Ecosse ainsi qu'au frison septentrional (friisk) et au frison oriental (seeltersk) en Allemagne. ISBN 90-74851-12-6.

Parler l'Europe

Le premier ouvrage de la collection "Langues vivantes" publié l'année dernière en français et en anglais (voir CB 10.3) est maintenant disponible en italien, en allemand et en irlandais. Soulignant les avantages intellectuels et éducatifs des jeunes enfants bilingues, l'ouvrage veut encourager les parents à donner une éducation plurilingue à leurs enfants. Une cassette vidéo basée sur cette publication sera disponible au début de l'année prochaine. ISBN 9 789074 851091 - Parlare l'Europa; 9 789074 851107 Die Klänge Europas - An Eoraip ag Caint

Vade-Mecum

Vade-Mecum - Guide des documents légaux, des structures d'appui et des programmes d'action concernant les langues moins répandues d'Europe - est un recueil de textes et d'extraits de documents fondamentaux émanant d'importantes institutions et d'organismes de portée mondiale qui ont adopté des positions positives vis à vis des langues moins répandues. Une telle publication sera utile aux personnes recherchant des textes relatifs aux langues moins répandues qui sont accessibles au public mais difficiles à obtenir auprès des grandes institutions qui les produisent. Prix: 8 Écus. ISBN 1870675 05 3 (anglais) / 1870675 06 1 (français).

Du droit individuel au droit collectif

Du droit individuel au droit collectif, le deuxième volume de la collection Langues vivantes, s'intéresse au vaste domaine de l'utilisation des langues moins répandues dans l'administration publique. L'ouvrage offre au lecteur une vue d'ensemble des dispositions - ou du manque de dispositions - en faveur de nos langues dans l'administration publique à travers l'Union européenne. Il en ressort un tableau très varié. Certains Etats ne tiennent absolument aucun compte

Présent au lancement des dernières publications du Bureau à Dublin, de gauche à droite : Dónall Ó Riagáin (Secrétaire Général, BELMR), John Gormley (Maire de Dublin), Helen Ó Murchú (Président, BELMR) et Peadar Ó Flatharta (Président du Comité irlandais du BELMR).

de l'existence de certaines langues tandis que d'autres n'accordent qu'une reconnaissance minimale à nos langues dans le secteur fondamental qu'est l'administration publique. Toutefois, le livret présente également des exemples de pensée créative et de dévouement admirable comme en témoignent la normalisation du catalan dans tous les secteurs de l'administration publique en Catalogne ainsi que l'enseignement général du basque aux fonctionnaires du Pays basque et la mise en oeuvre efficace d'une politique bilingue à Bruxelles. Rédigé par Silvia Carrel, Responsable de l'information au Centre d'information de Bruxelles du Bureau européen, cet ouvrage est une source abondante d'idées et d'inspiration qui montre ce qui peut être fait et ce qui a été fait pour augmenter le profil de nos langues dans l'administration publique afin qu'elles ne soient plus marginalisées dans ce secteur fondamental. Prix: 3 Écus. ISBN: 90 74851 06 1 (anglais) / 90 74851 04 5 (français).

Base de données d'activités culturelles 2

Ce second numéro d'une collection de bases de données sur les activités culturelles consiste en une liste des centres de documentation culturelle de l'Union européenne qui fournissent de l'information en et au sujet des langues moins répandues. Le premier numéro contenait une liste de troupes de théâtre semi-professionnelles et d'organisations de coordination impliquées dans la production ou l'organisation de théâtre en langue moins répandue (voir CB 10.3). La base de données fait partie d'un grand projet entrepris par le Centre d'information de Bruxelles du Bureau européen dont l'objectif est de fournir autant d'informations que possible au grand public sur les activités culturelles des communautés de langue moins répandue. Afin d'obtenir des exemplaires de cette publication ou de plus amples renseignements sur ce projet, veuillez vous adresser à Wolfgang Jenniges au Centre d'information de Bruxelles (adresse en dernière page). Prix: 4 Écus.

Egalement disponibles

L'Unité dans la Diversité, la brochure d'information générale du Bureau, en irlandais et en néerlandais, qui présente une vue d'ensemble des langues et cultures de l'Union européenne et leur statut actuel au sein de cette Union. Et, le Rapport annuel du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues - 1993. Pour en obtenir des exemplaires, adressez-vous au Bureau européen à Dublin ou à Bruxelles.

Toutes les publications mentionnées ci-dessus sont disponibles auprès du Bureau européen (adresses en dernière page) à l'exception de la version irlandaise de Parler l'Europe (An Eoraip ag Caint) que vous pouvez vous procurer directement auprès de Coiste na hÉireann den mBETN, fch Dáithí Ó Dufaigh, 26 Cearnóg Mhuirfean, IRL-Baile Atha Cliath 2.

Nouvelles Publications de Mercator-Éducation

Nouvelles publications de Mercator-Éducation

Mercator Guide to Organisations – 1994 additions and update (Supplément 1994, à feuilles mobiles)

Grâce aux additions et à la mise à jour de cette année, une soixantaine d'organisations supplémentaires figurent maintenant dans le MGO et plus de quatre-vingt descriptions d'organisations y figurant déjà ont été révisées. Trois organisations ont été supprimmées pour cause de cessation d'activité. Un pays, l'Autriche, est inclus pour la première fois. Le supplément révisé de 1994 sera utile à tous ceux qui possèdent déjà le MGO (1990) et son supplément (1992).

Bilingualism, Bilingual Education and the Education of Regional or Minority Languages; a selective biography. First Provisional ed., Feen, NJ van der et SJ van der Wal, eds. Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Mercator Education, 1992. (à feuilles mobiles)

L'ouvrage de 1991/92 décrit publications traitant des thèmes susmentionnés. Il comporte plus de 400 entrées ainsi qu'un index d'auteurs.

Provision of Learning Materials: for primary and pre-primary education – Tjeerdsma RS et JA Sikma, Ljouwert/Leeuwarden: Fryske Akademy, Mercator-Éducation 1994. xi, 335 pages, illustrations, carte, tableaux ; 25cm (Education of regional or minority languages in the EU – LEMA).

Pre-prmary education, ASj van der Goot, WJT Renkema et MB Stuijt – Ljouwert/Leeuwarden: Fryske Akademy, Mercator-Éducation 1994. x, 410 pages, illustrations, carte, tableaux ; 25cm (Education of regional or minority languages in the EU – PREP).

Deux inventaires ont été publiés l'été dernier dans le cadre de la collection de Mercator Éducation: "Education of regional or minority languages in the European Union", chacun d'eux traitant d'un aspect spécifique de l'éducation en langue minoritaire. L'éducation par l'intermédiaire de la langue minoritaire, les ressources et les besoins identifiés en sont les thèmes principaux. Les deux publications donnent respectivement un aperçu de la mise à disposition de matériel pédagogique et de l'enseignement maternel. Elles présentent également un aperçu des tendances dans la pratique de l'enseignement chez les diverses communautés, basé sur des rapports rédigés par des experts provenant des communautés en question. Tous les rapports dans les deux inventaires sont présentés dans leur langue d'origine ainsi qu'en anglais.

Les deux inventaires sont le résultat d'études réalisées par Mercator-Éducation. Le premier, intitulé *Provision of Learning Materials*, décrit et compare la production et la distribution de matériel pédagogique dans 22 communautés linguistiques et contient également des conclusions et des recommandations concernant la pratique et la politique linguistique à plusieurs niveaux. Le deuxième inventaire, intitulé *Pre-primary Education*, traite de l'enseignement des et en langues minoritaires et de son contexte politique et éducatif dans seize communautés.

Deuxième Symposium international sur la législation et les langues européennes

Droits linguistiques dans la nouvelle Europe

Le premier symposium international sur la législation et les langues européennes s'est tenu dans la capitale régionale de la Galice, Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle, du 16 au 18 octobre 1992. Comme le soulignait la notice d'information, ce symposium était le premier de la sorte à avoir lieu en Europe et se donnait pour mission de contribuer à mettre en lumière les inégalités linguistiques existant en Europe et à définir des alternatives pour faciliter l'utilisation générale de toutes les langues européennes sur un pied d'égalité.

Comme son titre l'indiquait, le symposium abordait un grand nombre de problèmes. C'est pourquoi ses organisateurs ont choisi d'appeler cette rencontre "premier symposium", sous-entendant que d'autres rencontres suivraient pour développer certains aspects n'ayant pu être considérés en profondeur lors du premier symposium. Par conséquent, et à la demande expresse de la majorité des participants au premier symposium, un deuxième symposium va avoir lieu afin, cette fois, d'analyser les droits linguistiques à la lumière du progrès politique et économique et de l'élargissement de l'Union européenne.

Le deuxième symposium s'intéressera à la transformation, en 1993, de la Communauté européenne en Union européenne, un changement de nom qui dénote une manière de penser et d'agir axée différemment aujourd'hui et demain. Bien-entendu, les accords qui ont abouti à ce changement ont un impact direct sur les citoyens européens et leurs diverses sphères d'expression. Ils influencent leurs cultures, leurs langues et leurs systèmes d'organisation politique. Dans ce contexte, nous devons encore nous interroger sur ce qu'il convient de faire pour que les langues moins répandues d'Europe ne restent pas, une fois de plus, en chemin ni ne se retrouvent parquées dans des réserves naturelles au lieu de pouvoir exprimer leur vitalité culturelle. Le symposium traitera aussi de l'ajout de langues moins répandues supplémentaires à l'Union européenne, conséquence directe de l'adhésion de nouveaux Etats membres en 1995 et de la manière de traiter de "petites" langues dans une Europe "élargie".

Il est toutefois encourageant de constater que des organismes aspirant à une Europe élargie, tels que le Conseil de l'Europe et la Conférence pour la Sécurité et la Coopération en Europe, se prononcent sur la nécessité de respecter les langues minoritaires, tout comme il est nécessaire de supporter les droits des minorités (ethniques, linguistiques, religieuses) à un moment de notre histoire où la violation explicite de ces droits prouve clairement qu'une Europe pour tous n'est pas viable à moins que chacun puisse y participer avec son caractère linguistique et culturel unique.

Tenant dûment compte de cela et réalisant qu'afin de parvenir à l'égalité linguistique pour tous les Européens, il est nécessaire de garantir l'usage public et privé de toutes les langues parlées en Europe et de surmonter les complexes provenant de positions discriminatoires d'un côté et la terminologie appliquée aux langues, les divisant en supérieure et inférieure et les plaçant en situation de conflit juridique de l'autre côté, nous devons: 1) analyser sérieusement et en profondeur les situations qui permettent de telles inégalités, et 2) formuler des propositions fermes, courageuses et raisonnées à l'intention des personnes chargées d'élaborer la future carte linguistique de l'Europe, afin de pouvoir mettre fin aux procédés discriminatoires en ce moment historique extrêmement important.

Coïncidant avec ces objectifs, PEN CLUB INTERNACIONAL (et notamment son Comité de Traduction et des Droits linguistiques) a prévu une Conférence mondiale sur les Droits linguistiques devant se tenir à Barcelone en 1996. Lorsque des membres du PEN CLUB catalan et de CIEMEN ont été mis en rapport, ils ont décidé de rassembler les deux projets en une seule opération. Le symposium sera donc une étape préparatoire pour ce qui sera l'événement le plus important de 1996 à Barcelone et qui aboutira à la proclamation de la première Déclaration mondiale des Droits linguistiques des Peuples. PEN CLUB INTERNACIONAL (Comité de Traduction et des Droits linguistiques) et CIEMEN ont coordonné leurs efforts pour organiser ensemble deux conférences internationales, la première sous forme d'un symposium préparatoire pour débattre de la réalité européenne et la seconde sous forme d'une conférence mondiale qui intégrera les analyses et les conclusions du symposium dans un débat élargi qui prendra en compte les réalités linguistiques du monde entier.

DETAILS SUR LE SYMPOSIUM:

Date: 2-4 mars 1995. Lieu: Gandia (País Valencià). Organisateurs: Direcció General de Política Lingüística de la Generalitat Valenciana, Ajuntament de Gandia, CEIC Alfons el Vell de Gandia, CIEMEN, MERCATOR-LEGISLACIÓ, PEN CLUB INTERNACIONAL (Comité de traducciones y derechos lingüísticos), Agència Europea per a les llengües minoritzades, Asociación Sócio-

Radiodiffusion en irlandais par satellite

Raidió na Gaeltachta, la station de radio nationale en langue irlandaise de l'Irlande émet maintenant en direct par le satellite Astra le samedi matin de 11.00 à 13.00 heures (heure locale). Ce service fait partie du service de radiodiffusion national de l'Irlande qui émet 24 heures sur 24 sur le Canal 22 d'Astra qui couvre presque toute l'Europe occidentale sur la fréquence audio 7.56 MHz. Pour capter l'émission en langue irlandaise, il faut se brancher sur le canal 22 et régler sur fréquence 7.56 MHz. Vous recevrez l'émission aussi clairement que sur radio FM par les haut-parleurs de votre poste de télévision, bien qu'acccompagnée d'une image non voulue. (Détails techniques: Satellite Astra 1b à 19.2 degrés Est, Canal 22, 11.538 GHz, polarisation verticale, fréquence audio sous-porteuse 7.56 MHz).

Symposium sur la législation et les langues européennes

Pedagóxica Galega. En collaboration avec: Comissión de las Comunidades Europeas, Direcció General de Política Linguistica de la Generalitat Valenciana, Ajuntament de Gandia, Direcció General de Recerca de la Generalitat de Catalunya.

SÉCRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL DU SYMPOSIUM: Néstor Novell / Salvador Almenar, CEIC Alfons el Vell / Ajuntament de Gandia, Plaça del Rei Jaume I, s/n, 46700 GANDIA. Tél. : Int.+34.6.2876551. Télécopie : Int.+34.3.2875286

COORDINATEURS DU SYMPOSIUM: Aureli Argemi / Oriol Ramon, CIEMEN (Centre Internacional Escarré per a les Minories Étniques i les Nacions), Pau Claris, 106 1er 1a, 08009 BARCELONA. Tél. : Int.+34.3.3020144. Télécopie : Int.+34.3.4120890. Dolors Torres / Enric Català, Generalitat Valenciana, Direcció General de Política Lingüística, Av. Campanar, 32, 46015 València. Tél. : Int.+34.6.3863219. Télécopie : Int.+34.6.3863310

ORIOL RAMON

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L'objectif du **Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues** est de sauvegarder et de promouvoir les langues autochtones moins répandues de l'Union européenne ainsi que leurs cultures. C'est un organisme indépendant enregistré en Irlande en société à responsabilité limitée sans capital actions et en ASBL en Belgique. Il travaille en collaboration étroite avec la Commission européenne et le Parlement européen, le Conseil de l'Europe et des institutions des Etats membres, à la poursuite de son but. Le Bureau est alimenté par des subventions provenant de la Commission européenne, du Gouvernement irlandais, du Gouvernement national de Luxembourg, du Gouvernement provincial de la Frise et de la Communauté germanophone en Belgique.

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bulletin
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IN THIS ISSUE
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New Publications.
Gaelic Drama.

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

One of the positive decisions emanating from the meeting of the heads of state and government of the Council of Europe's member states in Vienna on 8 and 9 October 1993 was a decision to prepare as speedily as possible a framework convention for the protection of national minorities [v.C-B Vol. 11 No. 1].

No time was lost in putting this decision into action and the text of the draft framework Convention was unveiled at the meeting of Minister's Deputies in Strasbourg on 10 November 1994. It was agreed unanimously. The thinking behind the document can be found in Article 1 which states:

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international cooperation.

The 32 article Framework Convention is quite ambitious in some respects and covers issues as diverse as equality before law, the avoidance of assimilation, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, access by minorities to the media, participation in cultural, social and economic life as well as transfrontier contacts and cooperation.

Readers of C-B will be gratified to learn that language and culture is one of the central themes to be found in the document and indeed articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 deal primarily with these matters.

Article 26.1 states that:

In evaluating the adequacy of the measures taken by the Parties to give effect to the principles set out in this framework convention, the Committee of Ministers shall be assisted by an advisory committee, the members of which shall have recognised expertise in the field of the protection of national minorities

This should ensure that there will be effective monitoring of the implementation of the Framework Convention.

One must recognise, however, that the Framework Convention has a number of inherent weaknesses. The most striking of these is the failure to define the term *national minority*. The explanatory document, accompanying the text of the Framework Convention states, "....In this connection, the Steering Committee for Human Rights [CDDH] noted that there was no consensus on the interpretation of the term national minorities. It was noted that, for some, the term was confined to minorities with a long history. For others, it covered historically multinational minorities or regional minorities. For yet others, new minorities, e.g. migrant workers and refugees, should also be included in the concept. There was also no consensus on the question whether citizenship should be a criterion for determining whether or not a person belongs to a national minority". In another paragraph of the explanatory document we find that, "It was decided to adopt a pragmatic approach, based on the recognition that at this stage, it is impossible to arrive at a definition capable of mustering general support for all Council of Europe member states. In the absence of such a definition, the states will, in implementing the convention, themselves interpret the term national minorities. In so doing, they will be guided by the spirit of this convention and international law". C-B learned that in the course of the discussion on the Framework Convention the Turkish delegation, while insisting that Turkish guest workers in Germany constituted a national minority also insisted that there was no Kurdish minority in Turkey! One fears that this "solution" to get around the difficulty of agreeing a definition may yet prove to be the Achilles heel of the Convention.

Another apparent weakness of the framework convention is that while it is strong on principles it is weak on specifics. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, although by no means perfect, is very precise and specific and states signing and ratifying the Charter would have to make a real commitment to implementing its provisions. There is a danger that some countries may regard the Framework Convention as being a soft option and while signing and ratifying it may continue to be reluctant to do the same in the case of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Notwithstanding the aforementioned caveats, the agreement of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities must be regarded as a real advance in developing a body of soft law which, if it does nothing else, will bring moral and political pressure to bear on states to respect human rights, including the collective rights of minorities and speakers of lesser used languages.The framework convention deserves a sincere, if guarded, welcome ■

Dónall Ó Riagáin

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The member States of the Council of Europe and the other States, signatories to the present framework Convention,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering that one of the methods by which that aim is to be pursued is the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Wishing to follow-up the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe adopted in Vienna on 9 October 1993;

Being resolved to protect within their respective territories the existence of national minorities;

Considering that the upheavals of European history have shown that the protection of national minorities is essential to stability, democratic security and peace in this continent;

Considering that a pluralist and genuinely democratic society should not only respect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of each person belonging to a national minority, but also create appropriate conditions enabling them to express, preserve and develop this identity;

Considering that the creation of a climate of tolerance and dialogue is necessary to enable cultural diversity to be a source and a factor, not of division, but of enrichment for each society;

Considering that the realisation of a tolerant and prosperous Europe does not depend solely on co-operation between States but also requires transfrontier co-operation between local and regional authorities without prejudice to the constitution and territorial integrity of each State;

Having regard to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Protocols thereto;

Having regard to the commitments concerning the protection of national minorities in United Nations conventions and declarations and in the documents of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, particularly the Copenhagen Document of 29 June 1990;

Being resolved to define the principles to be respected and the obligations which flow from them, in order to ensure, in the member States and such other States as may become Parties to the present instrument, the effective protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities, within the rule of law, respecting the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of states; Being determined to implement the principles set out in this framework Convention through national legislation and appropriate governmental policies, Have agreed as follows:

SECTION I

Article 1

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation.

Article 2

The provisions of this framework Convention shall be applied in good faith, in a spirit of understanding and tolerance and in conformity with the principles of good neighbourliness, friendly relations and co-operation between States.

Article 3

1. Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.

2. Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention individually as well as in community with others.

SECTION II

Article 4

1. The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.

2. The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.

3. The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.

Article 5

1. The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

2. Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.

Article 6

1. The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.

2. The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Article 8

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations.

Article 9

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.

3. The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.

4. In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.

Article 10

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

3. The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

Article 11

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

2. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.

3. In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.

Article 12

1. The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.

2. In this context the Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.

3. The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.

Article 13

1. Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognise that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.

2. The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.

Article 14

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.

2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.

3. Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

Article 16

The Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention.

Article 17

1. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.

2. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.

Article 18

1. The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States, in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.

2. Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.

Article 19

The Parties undertake to respect and implement the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention making, where necessary, only those limitations, restrictions or derogations which are provided for in international legal instruments, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in so far as they are relevant to the rights and freedoms flowing from the said principles.

SECTION III

Article 20

In the exercise of the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention, any person belonging to a national minority shall respect the national legislation and the rights of others, in particular those of persons belonging to the majority or to other national minorities.

Article 21

Nothing in the present framework Convention shall be interpreted as implying any right to engage in any activity or perform any act contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and in particular of the sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

Article 22

Nothing in the present framework Convention shall be construed as limiting or derogating from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms which may be ensured under the laws of any Contracting Party or under any other agreement to which it is a Party.

Article 23

The rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention, in so far as they are the subject of a corresponding provision in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms or in the Protocols thereto, shall be understood so as to conform to the latter provisions.

SECTION IV

Article 24

1 The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe shall monitor the implementation of this framework Convention by the Contracting Parties.

2 The Parties which are not members of the Council of Europe shall participate in the implementation mechanism, according to modalities to be determined.

Article 25

1 Within a period of one year following the entry into force of this framework Convention in respect of a Contracting Party, the latter shall transmit to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe full information on the legislative and other measures taken to give effect to the principles set out in this framework Convention.

2 Thereafter, each Party shall transmit to the Secretary General on a periodical basis and whenever the Committee of Ministers so requests any further information of relevance to the implementation of this framework Convention.

3 The Secretary General shall forward to the Committee of Ministers the information transmitted under the terms of this Article.

Article 26

1 In evaluating the adequacy of the measures taken by the Parties to give effect to the principles set out in this framework Convention the Committee of Ministers shall be assisted by an advisory committee, the members of which shall have recognised expertise in the field of the protection of national minorities.

2 The composition of this advisory committee and its procedure shall be determined by the Committee of Ministers within a period of one year following entry into force of this framework Convention.

SECTION V

Article 27

This framework Convention shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. Up until the date when the Convention enters into force, it shall also be open for signature by any other State so invited by the Committee of Ministers. It is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance for approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 28

1 This framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which twelve member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 27.

2 In respect of any member State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 29

1 After the entry into force of this framework Convention and after consulting the Contracting States, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite to accede to the Convention, by a decision taken by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe, any non-member State of the Council of Europe which, invited to sign in accordance with the provisions of Article 27, has not yet done so, and any other non-member State.

2 In respect of any acceding State, the framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 30

1 Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories for whose international relations it is responsible to which this framework Convention shall apply.

2 Any State may at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this framework Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the framework Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.

3 Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

Article 31

1 Any Party may at any time denounce this framework Convention by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2 Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 32

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council, other signatory States and any State which has acceded to this framework Convention, of:

(a) any signature;

(b) the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;

(c) the date of entry into force of this framework Convention in accordance with Articles 28, 29 and 30;

(d) any other act, notification or communication relating to this framework Convention.

IN BRIEF

Frisian Language Summer School

Following the success of last year's school the Frisian language Summerschool will once again be held this year on the island of Skylge/Terschelling off the Frisian coast of the Netherlands. This year's one week intensive course will be a continuation of last year's and is aimed primarily at those with a basic knowledge of the Language as it is spoken in the Netherlands. The course which is being organised by AFÛK and the Folkshegeskoalle SchylgeralÊn will follow the same formula as last year's course and emphasis will be placed on oral and reading skills. The grammar component of the course will also be increased this year.Time will also be left for learners to explore the island, its wildlife and its charming Frisian speaking villages. The course will take place during the week of 01-07 July. For further information contact:

Jantsje Sikma, Folkshegeshoalle Schylgeralân, tel: + 31 5620 8954 or Gjalt Jelsma, AFÛK, tel: + 31 58 159475.

Two new Welsh projects for 15-16 Year olds

ACEN, a publishing company and language consultancy based in Cardiff, Wales involved in the field of Welsh as a second Language has recently announced two schemes to present the Language to young adults: 292 (Dau Naw daw) aims at developing basic language skills and some work skills through Welsh amongst 15 and 16 year old pupils. The young people following the scheme find themselves in an imaginary company and are required to carry out various activities which present opportunities to develop oral, reading, and writing skills. The teaching material includes a series of colour magazines at four levels of linguistic ability and audio-visual tapes. The second scheme *Rap* is a 20 minute youth orientated magazine programme broadcast on Wednesday nights on S4C-the Welsh Language television channel. Programme content include fashion and pop, sport and leisure, environmental and personal issues ranging from hand-gliding to bulimia. For further information on these two projects or any organisation wishing to contact ACEN with regard to Coproduction can do so at:

ACE Cy, Tylfor, 1 Stryd y Bont, Caerdydd
CF5 2TH. WALES.

New Degree Course in Bilingualism

This new one year graduate course leading to the degree of Master of Arts of the University of Wales, is part of a European initiative to promote language learning and interculturalism. It is the first European degree of its kind in this subject area. Students will have an opportunity to study a variety of bilingual and Language/cultural contexts within several European Universities by following modules during the second term either at the Universities of Barcelona (CAT), Florence (I), Limerick (IRL) or Leeuwarden (NL). Applications are invited from graduates with a good first degree in relevant disciplines. Further information on the course which commences in October 1995 can be obtained from:

the Dean of Bilingual Studies, Trinity College, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA31 3EP, Wales. tel:+ 44 1267 237971; fax: + 44 1267 230933.

A Change of name

As of 1 January 1995, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has a new name. At its December 94 Budapest summit, the CSCE heads of state and government, decided to give the CSCE a new political impetus and agreed to change the name to Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Budapest Summit document stipulates that the name change "has no effect on the character of its commitments not the status of the CSCE and its institutions".

Testing the Ability to Teach Welsh in the Workplace

TARGED, the training and Enterprise Council for North West Wales, with financial support form the Welsh office has recently produced new qualifications which aim to tell employers exactly what language skills can be expected of those who have gained them. The qualifications focus on the ability to use the Welsh language in the workplace and were presented to eighty employers from both the public and private sectors at the Language Skills Fair held at Plas Maenan in the Conwy Valley (Wales). Further information from:

Mr. Bill Chapman, TARGED, Llys Britannia, Parc Menai, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4BN, WALES.

LANGUAGE ABILITY IN THE EU

Eurobarometer No. 41 provides some interesting information on language ability in the European Union.

More EU citizens speak German as mother tongue than any other language - 24%. Italian and English tie for second place with 17% each, closely followed by French with 16%.

When the question is posed about ability in languages, be it mother tongue or L2 ability, the picture changes considerably. 42% of EU citizens claim to be able to converse in English, 31% in German and 29% in French. English is the only language which can be used more by non-native [25%] than native [17%] speakers. Across the Union, 41% non-native speakers have learned the English language, compared to 28% having learned French and 15% German.

The question *What is your mother tongue?*, provides some interesting figures. Some 94% of Luxemburgers claim to have a language other than one of the eleven official working languages of the EU as mother tongue - undoubtedly Luxembourgish for the overwhelming majority of these respondents. The percentage of other language respondents goes into double figures for two other member states. In Spain, 14% of respondents claim to have a language other than Spanish as mother tongue, no doubt Catalan, Galego, Basque etc. In Ireland, the corresponding figure is 10% - almost certainly speakers of Irish.

L2 ability was highest in Luxembourg where 89% claimed to be able to speak French, 88% German and 46% English. The Netherlands and Belgium also scored high on L2 ability.

NOTICE TO READERS

Since its creation in 1992 the Brussels Information Centre of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages has developed a small library with books, reports, periodicals and relevant press cuttings, which were systematically collected over the last few years. Serious documentation concerning the lesser used languages in our Centre must be constantly enlarged and updated.

We therefore request all our readers to send us books, brochures, periodicals, as well as information on new publications and projects, at the address below.

EBLUL-Brussels Documentation Centre,
Sint-Jooststraat 49, B-1030 Brussels.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Last April saw the publication by Mercator-Education of its fourth annual overview of minority language courses in the European Union. The Overview contains practical details for anyone interested in taking up a course in a minority language and includes details on the course organisers, course length, enrolment fees, level etc. The editors expect a growth in the number of courses included so far mainly as a result of the accession of new states to the EU.

Mercator Education/COUR,
PO Box 54,
NL-8900 AB Ljouwert/Leeuwarden,
THE NETHERLANDS

The Changing Voices of Europe: Social and political changes and their linguistic repercussions, past, present and future - Ed. by M. M. Perry, W. V. Davies and R. A. M. Temple. The University of Wales Press/Modern Humanities Research Association, Cardiff, 1994. ISBN 0-7083-1259-4, 335 pages. A collection of twenty-one papers in honour of Glanville Price, whose interest in Romance and Celtic linguistics is reflected in the majority of the contributions to the volume. Papers dealing with French include discussions on the standardisation of French in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the political and institutional representation of present-day French, and the inner-city dialect of Paris. Other papers on Romance languages discuss differences between Romanian as spoken inside and outside of Romania, the problem of syntactic borrowings from English into Spanish, and the assessment of literacy in tenth century Spanish society. Lesser used Romance languages discussed include Occitan, Piedmontese, and the lesser used languages of Spain. Of the papers devoted to Celtic languages, two examine the status of Breton, one in the light of recent legislation, particularlily in post-1981 France, the other in respect to cultural identity and its acceptance in education. Attitudes towards and prospects for Gaelic in Scotland are treated, as are, in three papers, poetry, dialect standardisation, and literary usage in Welsh. Outside of the scope of Romance and Celtic linguistics topics include the survival of Arabic on Malta through the Middle Ages, changing perspectives on dialects in German, and the German spoken by the German community in Russia. Finally, three papers address more general questions about languages in Europe, discussing the notions of language and dialect, the idea of a Romance-based European lingua franca, and the role language plays in the process of 'nation-building'.

Language Problems and Language Planning, vol 18, 3, Fall 1994, pp. 179-302. This is a special issue on the language situation in Mexico and Mexican linguistics, edited by guest-editor Margarita Hidalgo. The five articles in the volume are: 'Bilingual Education, Nationalism and Ethnicity in Mexico' (Hidalgo), 'Las lenguas amerindias y la conformación de la lengua nacional en México en el siglo XIX' (Bárbara Cifuentes), 'Tracing Mexican Spanish /s/: A Cross-Section of History' (John M. Lipski), 'Afro-Mestizo Speech from Costa Chica, Guerrero: From Cuaji to Cuijla' (Daniel Althoff), and 'La influencia de "los de abajo" en tres procesos de cambio lingüstico en el español de Morelia, Michocán' (Manuel J. Gutiérrez). The volume is thus of special interest to anyone working in the fields of sociolinguistics, Native American languages, and Spanish.

Poésie de Wallonie en langue picarde, wallonne et lorraine - Published by Traditions et Parlers populaires Wallonie-Bruxelles asbl. A collection of poetry from Belgian's Walloon region, grouped according to the varieties as given in the title. Every group of poems is preceded by an introduction into the cultural and literary tradition of the respective area and into the work of the contributing poets, while various illustrations depict typical sights. Poems are translated into French. 88 pages. ISBN 2-930047-08-9.

Das Galicische: Eine Fallstudie zur Verschriftlichungsproblematik romanischer Minderheiten-sprachen - Michaela Luyken. Pro Lingua vol. 19. L's Ph.D. dissertation (1992, Mannheim) presents a detailed survey of the development of the orthography of modern Galego, including a diachronic overview and linguistic classification. The first part (chs 1-3) provides a more general discussion of language policy and planning, as well as of spelling-systems, while the second part (chs 4-7) is concerned more closely with Galego. A brief conclusion is drawn (ch 8), a Galego poem and some spelling samples are annexed. The book also features an extensive bibliography. 331 pages. ISBN 3- 926972-34-3.

Come diseut m' grand pére: Proverbs et dictons en wallon carolorégien - Robert Arcq. This collection of walloon proverbs and sayings is a new and enlarged edition of the original 1982 publication, published by the Association littéraire wallonne de Charleroi in honour of the late Robert Arcq (1925-1994), incorporating new material collected by the author and illustrations by him. All entries have a literal translation as well as an explanation of the meaning in French. A short biography of the author is added. 120 p., El bourdon, Charleroi.

Les Langues de France - Jean Bonnemason. ISBN 2-87785-297-0, 49 pages. An introduction to multilingual France, primarily for the use in schools. Full colour pictures and texts in the lesser used languages of France introduce the student to the languages of present-day France and their development from pre-historical times up to the twentieth century, as well as to linguistic key- concepts such as language, parole, and dialect. Orders can be placed with Éditions PEMF, 06376 Mouans Sartoux Cedex, France.

Gwaith Cymdeithasol a'r Iaith Gymraeg/Social Work and the Welsh Language - ed. by Rhian Huws Williams, Hywel Williams & Elaine Davies. Cardiff, CCETSW Cymru, Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru, 1994. ISBN 0-7083-1203-9. xvii + 204 pages. Welsh/English. A collection of papers on Welsh with particular reference to its use in social work and social care. Three papers address this problem directely, while the remaining three papers discuss the situation of the Welsh language on a more general level. A general index gives easy access to all points discussed.

Languages in European Business: A Regional Survey of Small & Medium-sized Companies - ed. by Stephen Hagen. ISBN 1 874016 21 6. 140 pages. Report of 'FLAIR-EUROPE' on the language needs in small and medium-sized enterprises in industrial peripheral regions of the EC. Questionnaires were sent to companies in seven regions in the EC by bodies in the respective countries; the regions being the Basque Country, Southern Denmark, South-West Germany, the Northern Netherlands, the North of England, Brittany, and Pesaro-Urbino, Italy. Informants were asked to report on language competence and use in their work environment, on future needs in language training, and to assess the importance of particular skills in particular languages for their business. The report can be obtained from CILT Mail Order, P.O. Box 8, Llandysul, Dyfed SA44 4ZB, Wales, UK.

Ellenofoni di Callabria: aspette storici, linguistici e letterari - Antonelle Casile & Domenico Fiorenza, Università per la Terza Etá e per il Tempo Libero della Bovesia-Area Ellenfona, Bova Marina. 150 pages. An introduction to Greek culture in the Calabria region in Southern Italy. After a historical sketch of the Greek communitiy in the region, the various associations and institutions concerned with Greek culture or language are introduced. The second part of the volume features some contemporary Calabrian-Greek poetry with Italian and Greek translations.

Le Droit á la parole - Noël Lainé, with an introduction by Per Denez. ISBN 2-908021-09-0. 209 pages. An extensive treatment of the Breton language with strong emphasis on the social, cultural, and political dimensions. The first part of the book, however, provides a thorough discussion of the concept of 'minority' languages and cultures. If Breton is to survive, the author's bottom line argument runs, it has to be endowed with the same legal and political status as French - as a national language. Terre de Brume Éditions, 46 Rue d'Antrain, 35700 Rennes, France.

L'Enseignement du Corse: Histoire, développements récents et perspectives - Jacques Fusina. Edizione "A Squadra di u Finusellu", 317 pages. Exploiting various contemporary sources, the author traces the history of Corsican education and examines its present state. Frequent reference is made to other lesser used languages in France, which are affected by the same national legislation. A choice of relevant legal documents is annexed to the main text.

Aspects du moyen âge en Catalogne Nord 2/Aspectes de l'edat mitjana a Catalunya Nord 2, Jacques Chaurand & Renada-Laura Portet, La légende du coeur mangé, La llegenda del cor menjat. ISBN 2-9508595-1-8. 124 (2 x 62) pages. French/Catalan. Two essays on the medieval motif of the husband who serves the heart of her lover to his wife, and how it has been rendered in the work of Catalan Troubadour Guilhem de Cabestang. Both essays in Catalan and French, with four facsimiles of the manuscripts.

Lutz Marten

New Source Book on the Rights of Ethnic Minorities

Christoph Pan in collaboration with Irene Kustatscher and Beatrice Belleli: ***Quellensammlung zum Entwurf einer Charta der Volksgruppenrechte. Ethnos, vol. 44, edited by Eva Maria Barki, Feliux Ermacora, Michael Geistlinger, Guy Héraud, Otto Klimminnich, Hans Klecatsky. 164 pp. Price 20 ECU approx. ISBN 3 7003 1066 8.***

The author of this collection of source material is also co-author of the draft charter of the rights of ethnic minorities which was presented to the European Parliament by the Federal Union of European Nationalities.

For the parliamentary debate of the draft, which was moved by the MEP Dr. Siegbert Alber and sponsored by the FUEN, the author has collated and painstakingly prepared a corpus of source material collected in many years of research and updated to include the most recent sources. Legal as well as political sources are taken into account.

In the interest of technically correct translation the source book also includes a glossary of the most important technical terms in four official EU languages.

SORBIAN COMMUNITIES BEING DESTROYED BY LIGNITE MINING

On the 16th November last year, a delegation of the Sorbian minority from Germany were guests of the European Parliaments Inter Group for Minority Languages, invited by Frau Elisabeth Schroedter, Member of the European Parliament for the Green Party. The Sorbian representatives reported to the numerous Members of Parliament present, the dramatic situation of Sorbs in the region of Niederlausitz and requested support in their struggle for constitutional rights.

Following a decision by the government of the federal state of Brandenburg (Germany), the Jänschwalde lignite extraction area in Niederlausitz is to be enlarged. What has not been taken into consideration however is the fact that this enlargement process would require a Sorbian settlement to be bulldozed away. The Brandenburg government's plan for lignite extraction includes, in particular, the decision of the town and country planning department to resettle the Horno community living there. The resettlement of these 380 inhabitants who own 113 properties, is to begin in 1996. In 2002, Horno is to be flattened by bulldozers.

The chairperson of Domowina, the parent organisation of Sorbian groups, present in Strasbourg, and the mayor of Horno both believe that this decision by the Brandenburg government contradicts the constitution of the state of Brandenburg into which the right to protect, preserve and promote the Sorbian linguistic and cultural identity is written. They warned emphatically that the devastation of Horno would be followed by further destruction of Sorbian settlement areas, a further decline in the living conditions of people living in the bi-cultural villages of Heinersbrück, Radewiese and Jänschwalde, and further irreversible and catastrophic environmental devastation of Sorbian settlement areas. Considering the fact that the Sorbian language is already dying out, such action would lead to a migration of the population, above all of the young generation, and thus to further forcible assimilation of the Sorbs in Brandenburg.

The European Parliament has addressed the rights of minorities in the Member States in numerous resolutions. Articles 126 and 128 of the Treaty of the European Union, the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, the 1993 Vienna Declaration of the European Council, the final document of the Copenhagen conference on the human dimension of the CSCE and the Charter for a New Europe, adopted in Paris, all provide a legal framework for the protection of minorities, even within the member states of the European Union.

Elisabeth Schroedter, born in Brandenburg, believes that the European Parliament therefore has legitimate grounds for addressing the latest events in Niederlausitz, and has suggested that a written declaration be prepared in which the European Parliament should demand that the Brandenburg government respect the rights of the Sorbian minority which are anchored in Brandenburg's constitution, and that the destruction of the Sorbian areas through lignite mining be stopped. This written declaration has now been available for signing since the middle of January last. According to the rules of the Parliament, the signatures of the majority of Members of the European Parliament are needed for the written declaration to be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The European Parliament

Having regard to its resolutions of 30 October 1987 and February 1994 (1),

A. whereas the government of the Land of Brandenburg has approved the continuation of open-cast lignite mining operations at Janschwalde, which threatens to destroy Sorbian settlements, and where it is planned to resettle the 380 inhabitants of the community of Horno, which is to be covered over in 2002,

B. whereas the continuation of open-cast lignite mining at Jänschwalde will cause a further deterioration of living conditions in the unique bicultural communities of Heinersbrück, Radewiese and Jänschwalde, irreversible environmental devastation in the Sorbs' traditional settlements, the migration of the younger generation and thus a further decline of their language and village culture,

C. whereas the Sorbian minority enjoys rights under the constitution of the Land of Brandenburg and the Treaty on German Unity,

1. Calls on the government of the Land of Brandenburg to halt the destruction of Sorbian areas by lignite mining operations;

2. Emphasizes the need for a legal system to protect linguistic minorities that is effective at international and European level;

3. Calls on the member states to implement the international declarations on the protection of ; linguistic minorities and especially to initiate the signing of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

4. Instructs its president to forward this declaration to the governments of the member States, the government of the Land of Brandenburg and the communities concerned.

(1) OF C 318, 30.11.1987, p. 160
OF C 61, 28.02.1994, p.110

LESSER USED LANGUAGE RADIO

Since 1981 Paris based speakers of Occitan, Basque, Corsican, Catalan, Breton, Alsatian and Flemish have the opportunity of listening and contributing to programmes in their own languages. Broadcasting on 93.1 FM to the Greater Paris area, Ile de France Radio Pays offers listeners a wide ranging choice of programmes whose contents include news from the regions, classical and regional music programmes, and bilingual programmes for those with little or no knowledge of the regional language. The Flemish service for example offers a jazz hour and news from Flanders and the Netherlands while the Alsace Lorraine service of two hours per week concentrates on the history of Alsace Lorraine and memories from people brought up there. Contributors to programmes send dispatches directly from the region and material is also received for broadcast from local radio stations..

With over 1 million Bretons living in the Paris area the Breton service gathers news and information from Britanny and the other Celtic regions. In addition it liaises with radio stations in Britanny which offer extra material for broadcast. Most of their programmes are live with Breton politics and economics taking up much of the subject matter under discussion.

The broadcasts in Catalan contain for the most part news items recorded and sent by cassette from the Generalitat de Catalunya's Cultural Department in Barcelona. This service is more culturally orientated but one programme of notable interest contains contributions directly from Perpignan where programmes are made on the spot providing interviews and information on events throughout North Catalonia.

Corsica, with its continuous public image problem directs its programmes more towards publicising the island and getting rid of old clichés on Corsica and its people. A serious message they try to get across is that defending one's identity is not synonymous with being anti-French. Those involved in Corsican programming are also involved in events outside of the radio such as the organising of a Corsican Book Fair, a Corsican Film day and other events.

The Basque service Txalaparta, like the Breton one produces its programmes in association with radio stations in the Basque Country - both North and South. It has a strong bilingual policy in its programming and on Wednesday evenings broadcasts are especially directed at those with an interest in the language and the region but who do not speak Basque. An additional service is that of Tuesday evenings at 22.30 where prisoners' families are given the opportunity of sending greetings to them.

Programmes in Occitan mainly reflect a civilisation and culture which for one thousand years stretches across the Mediterranean region from the Aran Valley in of Spain to the Occitan valleys of Italy. Music offered is that of the Troubadours as well as medieval music to present day rock and rap. Along with some of the other language services above bilingual programmes are produced in association with the Félibrige and the Institute of Occitan Studies (IEO).

Radio Païs claims 80% of its musical output to be from the lesser used language regions of France. It also provides a news service

from the regions unavailable on other radio services in the greater Paris area while at the same time acting as community radio by publicising the local events of associations and organisations. Since 1981 Radio Païs has been carrying out its objective of serving the seven lesser used language communities of France by forming a link between them through the medium of radio in the greater Paris region. For further information contact:
Radio Pays, CAP 118, F-93558 Montreuil Cedex, FRANCE. Tel: + 33 48 59 2212; fax: + 33 48 592078.

GAELIC COMMUNITY DRAMA IN SCOTLAND

While there has been a resurgence in recent years throughout Scotland in Scots and English drama this has not been the case for Gaelic drama. This is a problem which now needs to be seriously addressed according to Norman Malcolm Macdonald in a recent report prepared by him for An Comunn Gaidhealach, a cultural organisation involved in promoting Gàidhlig in Scotland. In this report whose function he describes as "trying to identify a mechanism that would enable Gaelic community drama to grow in the future" MacDonald outlines the acute need in Scotland for an overall organisation that would support nonprofessional Gaelic drama of all kinds.

There are recent developments in Scotland of which Gaelic drama can avail such as competitions which stimulate writing and the production of new plays, however the problem of finding Gaelic speaking adjudicators still remains. The Scottish Arts Council offers a maximum grant of £6,000 over two years towards the costs of a writer/director and today over three hundred plays are available for production in Gàidhlig but are not being produced. CTG, the new Gàidhlig Television Committee is another outlet for which plays could be developed for broadcast but this could greatly affect live community drama in that more Gàidhlig speakers would choose to stay at home where they would be able to watch Gàidhlig drama from the comfort of their own living rooms.

In order to encourage more play production the idea of a Gaelic Theatre was put forward and the point made that "it is not play-writing by individuals that is required, so much as advice, and guidance for communities, to enable them to dramatise their own precious experience, first for themselves and then for others". Another suggestion in the report is the organising of drama competitions during the Royal National Mod (Annual Gàidhlig Festival) and an annual drama festival. Children's drama which is not being properly catered for now also needs to be further developed especially considering the Scottish Office's guidelines on the school curriculum which include a document on the expressive arts, which includes drama. Macdonald also suggests that third level colleges be contacted and kept informed for potential community drama in any future University of the Highlands and Islands.

The challenge today is what must be done to stem the decline in this kind of drama. When this question was put to those involved with Gaelic drama on the ground a strong desire was expressed for the need of help and advice and the need for some kind of drama 'enabler' who would advise and coordinate various initiatives aimed at promoting live drama. More cooperation between all Gaelic organisations in increasing the profile of Gaelic arts at the centre of which lies drama was also strongly recommended.

In an effort therefore to face these problems a new post of Gaelic Drama Officer is being created next year. The Gaelic Community Drama Officer will facilitate the bringing together of the varied talents in communities and help enthuse them towards the growth of drama in Gàidhlig by forming contacts and coordinating projects between various drama groups and organisations. Since publication of the report Comunn na Drama has already been asked to help in two community play initiatives on the Isle of Barra and in Lochaber. For further information on this latest initiative contact: An Comunn Gaidhealach (Comunn na Drama), 91 Sraid Chrombail, Steornabhagh PA87 2DG, SCOTLAND. Tel: + 44 851 703487; Fax: + 44 851 706467.

RECENT AND COMING EVENTS

"Conference on German speaking Islets of Trentino": 19/20 May 1995. This two day conference has as its major aim to internationally present the two German speaking varieties of Cimbri and Mòcheno spoken in Northern Italy. Cimbri which is spoken by an estimated 30% of the local population can be found in small pockets in the Lessini mountains (Verona) and on the Asagio plateau (Vicenza). Mòcheno, according to estimates is spoken by abut 1,200 people in an area of the province of Trento known as the Valle dei Mòcheni. Further information on the conference is available from the organisers:
Instituto Culturale Mòcheno-Cimbro, I-38050 Palù del Fersina (TN), Italy Tel/Fax: + 39 461 550073.

"Sixth International Conference on Minority languages" 30 June -5 July, 1995: being organised by the Kashubian-Pomeranian Association in cooperation with the Universities of Gdansk and Poznan. The theme of the conference will be 'Language Minorities and Minority Languages in a Changing Europe'. Further information available from:
Tomasz Wicherkiewicz, Adam Mickiewicz University, Chair of Oriental & Baltic Studies, ul. Miedzychodzka 5, PL-60-371 Poznan, Poland; Tel/Fax: + 48 61 616836.

"I day Conference on Bilingualism in Wales" 10 June 1995, Central Library Cardiff, Wales. As the Welsh language becomes much more visible (shop fronts, road signs etc) since the introduction of a new language act and the establishment of the Welsh Language Board this conference will concentrate on the impact of these latest developments on the Welsh language. Speakers will include people from the Welsh Language Board, the City Council and a representative from Bord na Gaeilge, the State body in Ireland responsible for the promotion of Irish in Ireland. Further information from:

Mr. Barry Tobin, Comhluadar Chaerdydd, 116 Stryd Brunswick, Tregona, Caerdydd CF5 1LN, Wales.

"European Conference on Language Planning" Barcelona, 9-10 November 1995. The Institute for Catalan Sociolinguistics and the Catalan Group of Sociolinguistics are now calling for papers for this conference the programme for which will be divided into four main components: Theoretical approach to language planning processes, language planning models, implementation of language policies and the evaluation of language policies. Proposals for papers on any of the above topics are invited and will be accepted in the following languages: Catalan, English, French and Spanish. Further information:

Institut de Sociolingüstica Catalana, Direcció General de Política Lingüistica, Carrer de Mallorca 272 1a planta, 08037 Barcelona, Catalonia: tel: + 34 3 4825672/3; Fax: + 34 3 2150455.

"6th Audiovisual Festival of Minority Cultures in Europe" - 19,20,21 May, Aix Sur Vienne, France. This festival which takes place every year grants awards to short film makers reflecting aspects of minority cultures in their work. Video films or 16mm in the original version with French subtitles will be accepted.

Further information can be obtained form Mairie d'Aixe-sur-Vienne, Festival Audiovisuel, F-89770 Aixe-sur-Vienne, France; Tel: + 33 55707700.

"10th International Congress of Celtic Studies" 23-29 July 1995, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. The theme of this year's conference will be 'Celtic Connections' and papers will be presented on history, tradition, ethnology, philology, linguistics, literature, archaeology and art. Participants will include established scholars from every country where Celtic Studies is practised with greater breadth of choice and emphasis this year being placed on youth. Details from:

10-ICCS, Dept. of Celtic, David Hume Tower, Univ. of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH8 9JX, Scotland. Tel; + 44 131 6503622; fax; + 131 6503624.

Second International Conference of the Ethnic Studies Network: 11-14 June 1995 LöSkolen, Helsinger, Denmark: The conference will be held in conjunction with the Eighth Conference of the International Association for Conflict Management which was founded to encourage scholars and practitioners to develop and disseminate theories, research and experience that is useful for understanding and improving conflict management in a number of settings. This conference will emphasise interdisciplinary approaches to research and theory in conflict management. The complimentary theme of the "Ethnic Studies Network" will be "Ethnic Conflicts: Internal and International Dimensions" and will be seeking to combine different national experiences and approaches around common issues. Further information on both these conferences available from:

Professor Valerie Morgan/Ms Lyn Moffet, Ethnic Studies Network, L014 University of Ulster, Cromore Road, Coleraine BT52 1SA, N. Ireland; tel;: + 44 1265 44141 ext. 4649; Fax: + 44 1265 324937.

Audiovisual Communication and Language Transfer Strasbourg, June 15-17, 1995: Organised by the FIT (International Federation of Translators) Committee for Media under the auspices of the Council of Europe. The aims of this conference will be to reveal the cultural differences and identity stakes of language in the production of audiovisual works and to arouse the awareness of professional bodies involved in AV communication who are usually unaware of or underestimate the impact of the problems of language transfer. Questions to be raised will include: does the European audiovisual media have a language policy? Can linguistic identities be cost-evaluated and be efficient? Minorities in Europe and the electronic media: how are the small linguistic areas represented?. Further information from:

University of Turku, Centre for Translating and Interpreting, Y. Gambier, Tykistkatu 2-4, FIN-20520 Turku, Finland; tel; + 358 21 6338725; Fax: + 358 21 6338730

THE SITUATION OF REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES IN EUROPE/LA SITUATION DES LANGUES REGIONALES OU MINORITAIRES EN EUROPE [Council of Europe 1994 - ref no. DLA {94.1}]

When CAHLR [Comité Ad Hoc Langues Régionales] was working on the draft of the final text of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the delegations from the different member states were invited to supply reports on the situation of regional or minority languages in their own countries. Twenty-two delegations responded to this request and the ensemble of reports provide much interesting information and a useful point of reference for those working for lesser used languages in general.

While readers of Contact-Bulletin might dispute some of the presentations, it must be said that most of them are fair and balanced. Although making no reference to Arvanite, Aroumain or Slav-Macedonian, the Greek delegation did supply a report on linguistic minorities in Thrace. Although hitherto Greece has tended to insist that the Muslims of Thrace were only a religious minority, the Greek submission now recognises three linguistic minorities - the Turkish-speaking minority, the Pomaks and the Gypsies. [The Greek submission led to an animated exchange of additional submissions between the Greek and Turkish representatives but this did not lead Turkey to present any submission on linguistic minorities in that country]. It was also interesting to note that France made no submission! This 150 page publication is available in both French and English and can be obtained directly from the Council of Europe.

Dónall ÓRiagáin

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We welcome your opinions, letters, articles etc. Please send these to:

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bulletin

Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues

An Biúró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana

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DANS CE NUMÉRO

Texte de la carde:
Destruction de villages sorabes.
Radio en langues moins répandues.
Nouvelle Publications.
Art dramatique en gaélique.

CONVENTION-CADRE POUR LA PROTECTION DES MINORITÉS NATIONALES

Une des décisions positives émanant de la réunion des chefs d'État et de gouvernement des États membres du Conseil de l'Europe ayant eu lieu à Vienne les 8 et 9 octobre fut celle de préparer dans les plus brefs délais une Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales [v. CB, Vol 11, NO.1].

On ne tarda pas à mettre cette décision à exécution et le texte du projet de Convention-cadre fut révélé à la réunion des ministres adjoints à Strasbourg, le 10 novembre 1994. Il a été approuvé à l'unanimité. L'Article 1 résume bien la pensée du document:

La protection des minorités nationales et des droits et libertés des personnes appartenant à ces minorités fait partie intégrante de la protection internationale des droits de l'homme et, comme telle, constitue un domaine de la coopération internationale.

A certains égards, cette Convention-cadre de 32 articles est assez ambitieuse et couvre des questions très diverses telles que éviter l'assimilation, l'égalité devant la loi, le droit de réunion pacifique, l'accès des minorités aux médias, la participation à la vie culturelle, sociale et économique, les contacts et la coopération transfrontaliers.

Les lecteurs de Contact Bulletin seront contents d'apprendre que langue et culture est un des thèmes au cœur du document. En fait, les articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 et 14 traitent surtout de ces questions.

L'article 26.1 déclare que:

Lorsqu'il évalue l'adéquation des mesures prises par une partie pour donner effet aux principes énoncés par la présente Convention-cadre, le Comité des ministres se fait assister par un comité consultatif dont les membres possèdent une compétence reconnue dans le domaine de la protection des minorités nationales.

Voilà qui devrait garantir que la mise en œuvre de la Convention-cadre sera contrôlée de manière efficace.

On doit reconnaître toutefois que la Convention-cadre a un certain nombre de faiblesses inhérentes. La plus frappante d'entre elles est le fait qu'elle ne réussit pas à définir le terme *minorité nationale*. Le document explicatif qui accompagne le texte de la Convention-cadre affirme: «...A cet égard, le Comité directeur des droits de l'homme [CDDH] a noté qu'il n'y avait pas de consensus sur l'interprétation du terme *minorités nationales*. On a noté que, pour certains, le terme ne s'appliquait qu'aux minorités ayant une longue histoire. Pour d'autres, il couvrait les minorités historiquement multinationales ou les minorités régionales. Pour d'autres encore, le concept devrait englober aussi les nouvelles minorités, telles que les travailleurs migrants et les réfugiés. Il n'y avait pas non plus de consensus sur la question de savoir si la citoyenneté devrait être un critère servant à déterminer si une personne appartient à une minorité nationale ou non». Dans un autre paragraphe du document explicatif, on lit que: «Reconnaissant qu'à ce stade il était impossible de parvenir à une définition susceptible de faire l'unanimité parmi les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe, on décida d'adopter une attitude pragmatique. En mettant en oeuvre la Convention, les États, faute d'une telle définition, interpréteront eux-mêmes le terme *minorités nationales*. Ils seront guidés pour ce faire par l'esprit de cette Convention et le droit international.» CB a appris qu'au cours de la discussion sur la Convention-cadre, la délégation turque avait, tout en affirmant que les travailleurs migrants turcs en Allemagne constituaient une minorité nationale, soutenu qu'il n'y avait pas de minorité kurde en Turquie! Il est à craindre que la "solution" choisie pour surmonter la difficulté rencontrée pour se mettre d'accord sur une définition s'avère être le talon d'Achille de la Convention.

Autre faiblesse manifeste de la Convention-cadre: riche en principes, elle manque de précisions. La Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires, bien que loin d'être parfaite, est très précise et spécifique et les États qui la signent et la ratifient doivent réellement s'engager à mettre en oeuvre ses dispositions. Certains pays risquent de considérer la Convention-cadre comme une solution facile et de la signer et la ratifier tout en continuant à être peu disposés à en faire autant en ce qui concerne la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires.

En dépit des réserves susmentionnées, la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales doit être considérée comme un réel pas en avant dans le développement d'un ensemble de 'lois mesurées' qui, si elles ne servent à rien d'autre, exerceront des pressions morales et politiques sur les États afin qu'ils respectent les droits de l'homme, y compris les droits collectifs des minorités et des locuteurs de langues moins répandues. La Convention-cadre mérite qu'on lui fasse un accueil réservé mais sincère ■

Dónall Ó Riagáin

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CONVENTION-CADRE POUR LA PROTECTION DES MINORITÉS NATIONALES

Les Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe et les autres Etats, signataires de la présente Convention-cadre,

Considérant que le but du Conseil de l'Europe est de réaliser une union plus étroite entre ses membres afin de sauvegarder et de promouvoir les idéaux et les principes qui sont leur patrimoine commun;

Considérant que l'un des moyens d'atteindre ce but est la sauvegarde et le développement des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales;

Souhaitent donner suite à la Déclaration des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe adoptée à Vienne le 9 octobre 1993;

Résolus à protéger l'existence des minorités nationales sur leur territoire respectif;

Considérant que les bouleversements de l'histoire européenne ont montré que la protection des minorités nationales est essentielle à la stabilité, à la sécurité démocratique et à la paix du continent;

Considérant qu'une société pluraliste et véritablement démocratique doit non seulement respecter l'identité ethnique, culturelle, linguistique et religieuse de toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale, mais également créer des conditions propres à permettre d'exprimer, de préserver et de développer cette identité;

Considérant que la création d'un climat de tolérance et de dialogue est nécessaire pour permettre à la diversité culturelle d'être une source, ainsi qu'un facteur, non de division, mais d'enrichissement pour chaque société;

Considérant que l'épanouissement d'une Europe tolérante et prospère ne depend pas seulement de la coopération entre Etats mais se fonde aussi sur une coopération transfrontalière entre collectivités locales et régionales respecteuses de la constitution et de l'intégrité territoriale de chaque Etat;

Prenant en compte la Convention de sauvegarde des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales et ses Protocoles;

Prenant en compte les engagements relatifs à la protection des minorités nationales contenus dans les conventions et déclaration des Nations Unies ainsi que dans les documents de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe, notamment celui de Copenhague du 29 juin 1990;

Résolus à définir les principes qu'il convient de respecter et les obligations qui en découlent pour assurer, au sein des Etats membres et des autres Etats qui deviendront Parties au présent instrument, la protection effective des minorités nationales et des droits et libertés des personnes appartenant à ces dernières dans le respect de la prééminence du droit, de l'intégrité territoriale et de la souveraineté nationale;

Etant décidés à mettre en œuvre les principes énoncés dans la présente Convention-cadre au moyen de législations nationales et de politiques gouvernementales appropriées, Sont convenus de ce qui suit

TITRE I

Article 1

La protection des minorités nationales et des droits et libertés des personnes appartenant à ces minorités fait partie intégrante de la protection internationale des droits de l'homme et, comme telle, constitue un domaine de la coopération internationale.

Article 2

Les dispositions de la présente Convention-cadre seront appliquées de bonne foi, dans un esprit de compréhension et de tolérance ainsi que dans le respect des principes de bon voisinage, de relations amicales et de coopération entre les Etats.

Article 3

1. Toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale a le droit de choisir librement d'être traitée ou ne pas être traitée comme telle et aucun désavantage ne doit résulter de ce choix ou de l'exercice des droits qui y sont liés.

2. Les personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales peuvent individuellement ainsi qu'en commun avec d'autres exercer les droits et libertés découlant des principes énoncés dans la présente Convention-cadre.

TITRE II

Article 4

1. Les parties s'engagent à garantir à toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale le droit à l'égalité devant la loi et à une égale protection de la loi. A cet égard, toute discrimination fondée sur l'appartenance à une minorité nationale est interdite.

2. Les parties s'engagent à adopter, s'il y a lieu, des mesures adéquates en vue de promouvoir, dans tous les domaines de la vie économique, sociale, politique et culturelle, une égalité pleine et effective entre les personnes appartenant à une minorité nationale et celles appartenant à la majorité. Elles tiennent dûment compte, à cet égard, des conditions spécifiques des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales.

3. Les mesures adoptées conformément au paragraphe 2 ne sont pas considérées comme un acte de discrimination.

Article 5

1. Les Parties s'engagent à promouvoir les conditions propres à permettre aux personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales de conserver et développer leur culture, ainsi que de préserver les éléments essentiels de leur identité, que sont leur religion, leur langue, leurs traditions et leur patrimoine culturel.

2. Sans préjudice des mesures prises dans le cadre de leur politique générale d'intégration, les Parties s'abstiennent de toute politique ou pratique tendant à une assimilation contre leur volonté des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales et protègent ces personnes contre toute action destinée à une telle assimilation.

Article 6

1. Les Parties veilleront à promouvoir l'esprit de tolérance et le dialogue interculturel, ainsi qu'à prendre des mesures efficaces pour favoriser le respect et la compréhension mutuels et la coopération entre toutes les personnes vivant sur leur territoire, quelle que soit leur identité ethnique, culturelle, linguistique ou religieuse, notamment dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la culture et des médias.

2. Les Parties s'engagent à prendre toutes mesures appropriées pour protéger les personnes qui pourraient être victimes de menaces ou d'actes de discrimi-

nation, d'hostilité ou de violence en raison de leur identité ethnique, culturelle, linguistique ou religieuse.

Article 7

Les Parties veilleront à assurer à toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale le respect des droits à la liberté de réunion pacifique et à la liberté d'association, à la liberté d'expression et à la liberté de pensée, de conscience et de religion.

Article 8

Les Parties s'engagent à reconnaître à toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale le droit de manifester sa religion ou sa conviction, ainsi que le droit de créer des institutions religieuses, organisations et associations.

Article 9

1. Les Parties s'engagent à reconnaître que le droit à la liberté d'expression de toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale comprend la liberté d'opinion et la liberté de recevoir ou de communiquer des informations ou des idées dans la langue minoritaire, sans ingérence d'autorités publiques et sans considération de frontières. Dans l'accès aux médias, les Parties veilleront, dans le cadre de leur système législatif, à ce que les personnes appartenant à une minorité nationale ne soient pas discriminées.

2. Le premier paragraphe n'empêche pas les Parties de soumettre à un régime d'autorisation, non discriminatoire et fondé sur des critères objectifs, les entreprises de radio sonore, télévision ou cinéma.

3. Les Parties n'entraveront pas la création et l'utilisation de médias écrits par les personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales. Dans le cadre légal de la radio sonore et de la télévision, elles veilleront, dans la mesure du possible et compte tenu des dispositions du premier paragraphe, à accorder aux personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales la possibilité de créer et d'utiliser leurs propres médias.

4. Dans le cadre de leur système législatif, les Parties adopteront des mesures adéquates pour faciliter l'accès des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales aux médias, pour promouvoir la tolérance et permettre le pluralisme culturel.

Article 10

1. Les Parties s'engagent à reconnaître à toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale le droit d'utiliser librement et sans entrave sa langue minoritaire en privé comme en public, oralement et par écrit.

2. Dans les aires géographiques d'implantation substantielle ou traditionnelle des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales, lorsque ces personnes en font la demande et que celle-ci répond à un besoin réel, les Parties s'efforceront d'assurer, dans la mesure du possible, des conditions qui permettent d'utiliser la langue minoritaire dans les rapports entre ces personnes et les autorités administratives.

3. Les Parties s'engagent à garantir le droit de toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale d'être informée, dans le plus court délai, et dans une langue qu'elle comprend, des raisons de son arrestation, de la nature et de la cause de l'accusation portée contre elle, ainsi que de se défendre dans cette langue, si nécessaire avec l'assistance gratuite d'un interprète.

Article 11

1. Les Parties s'engagent à reconnaître à toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale le droit d'utiliser son nom (son patronyme) et ses prénoms dans la langue minoritaire ainsi que le droit à leur reconnaissance officielle, selon les modalités prévues par leur système juridique.

2. Les Parties s'engagent à reconnaître à toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale le droit de présenter dans sa langue minoritaire des enseignes, inscriptions et autres informations de caractère privé exposées à la vue du public.

3. Dans les régions traditionnellement habitées par un nombre substantiel de personnes appartenant à une minorité nationale, les Parties, dans le cadre de leur système législatif, y compris, le cas échéant, d'accords avec d'autres Etats, s'efforceront, en tenant compte de leurs conditions spécifiques, de présenter les dénominations traditionnelles locales, les noms de rues et autres indications topographiques destinées au public, dans la langue minoritaire également, lorsqu'il y a une demande suffisante pour de telles indications.

Article 12

1. Les Parties prendront, si nécessaire, des mesures dans le domaine de l'éducation et de la recherche pour promouvoir la connaissance de la culture, de l'histoire, de la langue et de la religion de leurs minorités nationales aussi bien que de la majorité.

2. Dans ce contexte, les Parties offriront notamment des possibilités de formation pour les enseignants et d'accès aux manuels scolaires, et faciliteront les contacts entre élèves et enseignants de communautés différentes.

3. Les Parties s'engagent à promouvoir l'égalité des chances dans l'accès à l'éducation à tous les niveaux pour les personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales.

Article 13

1. Dans le cadre de leur système éducatif, les Parties reconnaissent aux personnes appartenant à une minorité nationale le droit de créer et de gérer leurs propres établissements privés d'enseignement et de formation.

2. L'exercice de ce droit n'implique aucune obligation financière pour les Parties.

Article 14

1. Les Parties s'engagent à reconnaître à toute personne appartenant à une minorité nationale le droit d'apprendre sa langue minoritaire.

2. Dans les aires géographiques d'implantation substantielle ou traditionnelle des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales, s'il existe une demande suffisante, les Parties s'efforceront d'assurer, dans la mesure du possible et dans le cadre de leur système éducatif, que les personnes appartenant à ces minorités aient la possibilité d'apprendre la langue minoritaire ou de recevoir un enseignement dans cette langue.

3. Le paragraphe 2 du présent article sera mis en œuvre sans préjudice de l'apprentissage de la langue officielle ou de l'enseignement dans cette langue.

Article 15

Les Parties s'engagent à créer les conditions nésessaires à la participation effective des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales à la vie culturelle, sociale et économique, ainsi qu'aux affaires publiques, en particulier celles les concernant.

Article 16

Les Parties s'abstiennent de prendre des mesures qui, en modifiant les proportions de la population dans une aire géographique où résident des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales, ont pour but de porter atteinte aux droits et libertés découlant des principes énoncés dans la présente Convention-cadre.

Article 17

1. Les Parties s'engagent à ne pas entraver le droit des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales d'établir et de maintenir, librement et pacifiquement, des contacts au-delà des frontières avec des personnes se trouvant régulièrement dans d'autres Etats, notamment celles avec lesquelles elles ont en commun une identité ethnique, culturelle, linguistique ou religieuse, ou un patrimoine culturel.

2. Les Parties s'engagent à ne pas entraver le droit des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales de participer aux travaux des organisations non gouvernementales tant au plan national qu'international.

Article 18

1. Les Parties s'efforceront de conclure, si nécessaire, des accords bilatéraux et multilatéraux avec d'autres Etats, notamment les Etats voisins, pour assurer la protection des personnes appartenant aux minorités nationales concernées.

2. Le cas échéant, les Parties prendront des mesures propres à encourager la coopération transfrontalière.

Article 19

Les Parties s'engagent à respecter et à mettre en œuvre les principes contenus dans la présente Convention-cadre en y apportant, si nécessaire, les seules limitations, restrictions ou dérogations prévues dans les instruments juridiques internationaux, notamment dans la Convention de sauvegarde des Droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales et ses Protocoles dans la mesure où elles sont pertinentes pour les droits et libertés qui découlent desdits principes.

TITRE III

Article 20

Dans l'exercice des droits et des libertés découlant des principes énoncés dans la présente Convention-cadre, les personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales respectent la législation nationale et les droits d'autrui, en particulier ceux des personnes appartenant à la majorité ou aux autres minorités nationales.

Article 21

Aucune des dispositions de la présente Convention-cadre ne sera interprétée comme impliquant pour un individu un droit quelconque de se livrer à une activité ou d'accomplir un acte contraires aux principes fondamentaux du droit international et notamment à l'égalité souveraine, à l'intégrité territoriale et à l'indépendance politique des Etats.

Article 22

Aucune des dispositions de la présente Convention-cadre ne sera interprétée comme limitant ou portant atteinte aux droits de l'homme et aux libertés fondamentales qui pourraient être reconnus conformément aux lois de toute Partie ou de toute autre Convention à laquelle cette Partie contractante est partie.

Article 23

Les droits et libertés découlant des principes énoncés dans la présente Convention-cadre, dans la mesure où ils ont leur pendant dans la Convention de sauvegarde des Droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales et ses Protocoles, seront entendus conformément à ces derniers.

TITRE IV

Article 24

1. Le Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe est chargé de veiller à la mise en oeuvre de la présente Convention-cadre par les Parties contractantes.

2. Les Parties qui ne sont pas membres du Conseil de l'Europe participeront au mécanisme de mise en oeuvre selon des modalités à déterminer.

Article 25

1. Dans un délai d'un an à compter de l'entrée en vigueur de la présente Convention-cadre à l'égard d'une Partie contractante, cette dernière transmet au Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe des informations complètes sur les mesures législatives et autres qu'elle aura prises pour donner effet aux principes énoncés dans la présente Convention-cadre.

2. Ultérieurement, chaque Partie transmettra au Secrétaire Général, périodiquement et chaque fois que le Comité des Ministres en fait la demande, toute autre information relevant de la mise en œuvre de la présente Convention-cadre.

3. Le Secrétaire général transmet au Comité des Ministres toute information communiquée conformément aux dispositions du présent article.

Article 26

1. Lorsqu'il évalue l'adéquation des mesures prises par une Partie pour donner effet aux principes énoncés par la présente Convention-cadre, le Comité des Ministres se fait assister par un comité consultatif dont les membres possèdent une compétence reconnue dans le domaine de la protection des minorités nationales.

2. La composition de ce comité consultatif ainsi que ses procédures sont fixées par le Comité des Ministres dans un délai d'un an à compter de l'entrée en vigueur de la présente Convention-cadre.

TITRE V

Article 27

La présente Convention-cadre est ouverte à la signature des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe. Jusqu'à la date de son entrée en vigueur, elle est aussi ouverte à la signature de tout autre Etat invité à la signer par le Comité des Ministres. Elle sera soumise à ratification, acceptation ou approbation. Les instruments de ratification, d'acception ou d'approbation seront déposés près du Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe.

Article 28

1. La présente Convention-cadre entrera en vigueur le premier jour du mois qui suit l'expiration d'une période de trois mois après la date à laquelle douze Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe auront exprimé leur consentement à être liés par la Convention-cadre conformément aux dispositions de l'article 27.

2. Pour tout Etat membre qui exprimera ultérieurement son consentement à être lié par la Convention-cadre, celle-ci entrera en vigueur le premier jour du mois qui suit l'expiration d'une période de trois mois après la date du dépôt de l'instrument de ratification, d'acceptation ou d'approbation.

Article 29

1. Après l'entrée en vigueur de la présente Convention-cadre et après consultation des Etats contractants, le Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe pourra inviter à adhérer à la présente Convention-cadre, par une décision prise à la majorité prévue à l'article 20.d du Statut du Conseil de l'Europe, tout Etat non membre du Conseil de l'Europe qui, invité à la signer conformément aux dispositions de l'article 27, ne l'aura pas encore fait, et tout autre Etat non membre.

2. Pour tout Etat adhérant, la Convention-cadre entrera en vigueur le premier jour du mois qui suit l'expiration d'une période de trois mois après la date de dépôt de l'instrument d'adhésion près le Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe.

Article 30

1. Tout Etat peut, au moment de la signature ou au moment du dépôt de son instrument de ratification, d'acceptation, d'approbation ou d'adhésion, désigner le ou les territoires pour lesquels il assure les relations internationales auxquels s'appliquera la présente Convention-cadre.

2. Tout Etat peut, à tout autre moment par la suite, par une déclaration adressée au Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe, étendre l'application de la présente Convention-cadre à tout autre territoire désigné dans la déclaration. La Convention-cadre entrera en vigueur à l'égard de ce territoire le premier jour du mois qui suit l'expiration d'une période de trois mois après la date de réception de la déclaration par le Secrétaire général.

3. Toute déclaration faite en vertu des deux paragraphes précédents pourra être retirée, en ce qui concerne tout territoire désigné dans cette déclaration, par notification adressée au Secrétaire général. Le retrait prendra effet le premier jour du mois qui suit l'expiration d'une période de trois moisaprès la date de réception de la notification par le Secrétaire général.

Article 31

1. Toute Partie peut, à tout moment, dénoncer la présente Convention-cadre en adressant une notification au Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe.

2. La dénonciation prendra effet le premier jour du mois qui suit l'expiration d'une période de six mois après la date de réception de la notification par le Secrétaire général.

Article 32

Le Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe notifiera aux Etats membres du Conseil, aux autres Etats signataires et à tout Etat ayant adhéré à la présente Convention-cadre:

a. toute signature;

b. le dépôt de tout instrument de ratification, d'acceptation, d'approbation ou d'adhésion;

c. toute date d'entrée en vigueur de la présente Convention-cadre conformément à ses articles 28, 29 et 30;

d. tout autre acte, notification ou communication ayant trait à la présente Convention-cadre.

EN BREF

Cours de Vacances en langue frisonne

Suite au succès des cours de l'année dernière, les Cours de Vacances en langue frisonne se tiendront une nouvelle fois sur l'île de Skylge/Terscheling, au large de la côte frisonne des Pays-Bas. Le stage intensif d'une semaine de cet été fera suite à celui de l'année dernière et s'adresse avant tout aux personnes possédant des rudiments de la langue telle qu'elle est parlée aux Pays-Bas. Le cours, qui est organisé par AFÛK et le Folkshegeskoalle Schylgeralân, suivra la même formule que celui de l'année dernière. L'accent sera mis sur l'oral et la lecture, et la partie grammaire du cours sera plus grande cette année. Par ailleurs, on laissera aux stagiaires le temps d'explorer l'île, sa faune et sa flore ainsi que ses charmants villages de langue frisonne. Le stage aura lieu du 1er au 7 juillet. Pour de plus amples renseignements, contacter :

Jantsje Sikma, Folkshegeshoalle Schylgeralân, tél. : + 31 5620 8954 ou Gjalt Jelsma, AFÛK, tél. : + 31 58 159475.

Deux nouveaux projets gallois pour les 15-16 ans.

ACEN, une maison d'édition et société de conseil en linguistique basée à Cardiff, au pays de Galles, qui est impliquée dans le domaine du gallois en tant que seconde langue, a récemment annoncé deux projets pour présenter la langue aux jeunes adultes. Le premier, 292 (Dau Naw daw) vise à développer les rudiments de la langue et quelques compétences professionnelles par l'intermédiaire du gallois parmi les élèves de 15-16 ans. Les jeunes prenant part au projet sont placés dans une entreprise imaginaire où on leur demande d'effectuer diverses activités qui leur donnent l'occasion de parler, d'écrire et de lire la langue, développant ainsi leurs aptitudes. Le matériel pédagogique comprend une série de magazines en couleurs à quatre niveaux de compétence linguistique et des cassettes audiovisuelles. Le deuxième projet, Rap, est un magazine télévisé destiné à la jeunesse, d'une durée de 20 minutes, et diffusé le mercredi soir sur S4C, la chaîne de télévision en langue galloise. Parmi les sujets au programme : la mode, la musique pop, le sport et les loisirs, l'environnement et les questions personnelles, du deltaplane à la boulimie. Toute personne souhaitant obtenir de plus amples renseignements concernant ces deux projets et toute organisation désireuse de contacter ACEN à propos d'une coproduction peuvent s'adresser à:

ACE Cy, Ty Ifor, 1 Stryd y Bont, Caerdydd CF5 2TH. PAYS DE GALLES.

Nouvelle Maîtrise de bilinguisme

Ce nouveau cours d'un an aboutissant au diplôme de Maîtrise ès Lettres (Master of Arts) de l'Université du pays de Galles fait partie d'une initiative européenne visant à promouvoir l'apprentissage des langues et l'interculturalisme. C'est le premier diplôme européen de la sorte sur ce sujet. Les étudiants auront l'occasion d'étudier un éventail de contextes bilingues et culturels/linguistiques au sein de plusieurs universités européennes en suivant, au cours du deuxième trimestre, des modules soit à l'université de Barcelone (CAT), de Florence (I), de Limerick (IRL) ou de Leeuwarden (NL). Les étudiants possédant une bonne licence dans les matières pertinentes peuvent poser leur candidature. Pour de plus amples renseignements sur ce cours qui débutera au mois d'octobre 1995, s'adresser à : **The Dean of Bilingual Studies, Trinity College, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA31 3EP, PAYS DE GALLES. Tél. : + 44 1267 237971; Télécopie : + 44 1267 230933.**

Changement de nom

Depuis le 1er janvier 1995, la Conférence sur la Sécurité et la Coopération en Europe (CSCE) a un nouveau nom. Lors du sommet de Budapest en décembre 1994, les chefs d'État ou de gouvernement des États participant à la CSCE ont décidé de donner un nouvel élan politique à la CSCE et ont convenu de changer son nom pour Organisation pour la Sécurité et la Coopération en Europe (OSCE). Le document du sommet de Budapest précise que le changement de nom "n'affecte nullement le caractère de ses engagements ni le statut de la CSCE et de ses institutions".

COMPÉTENCES LINGUISTIQUES DANS L'UNION EUROPÉENNE

Eurobaromètre No. 41 [juillet 1994] fournit des renseignements intéressants sur les compétences linguistiques dans l'Union européenne.

Avec 24% de locuteurs, l'allemand en tant que langue maternelle est la langue la plus parlée par des citoyens de l'UE. L'italien et l'anglais arrivent tous les deux en seconde place avec 17%, suivis de près par le français avec 16%.

Lorsqu'on pose la question sur les compétences en langues, que ce soit en langue maternelle ou en deuxième langue, le résultat est bien différent. 42% des citoyens de l'UE prétendent être capables de parler l'anglais, 31% l'allemand et 29% le français. L'anglais est la seule langue qui peut être utilisée par plus de gens dont elle n'est pas la langue maternelle (25%) que par ceux dont elle l'est (17%). A travers l'Union, 41% de gens dont ce n'est pas la langue maternelle ont appris l'anglais par rapport à 28% pour le français et 15% pour l'allemand.

La question 'Quelle est votre langue maternelle?', a fait surgir des chiffres intéressants. Quelque 94% de Luxembourgeois prétendent avoir une langue autre que l'une des onze langues officielles de travail de l'UE comme langue maternelle, assurément le luxembourgeois pour la grande majorité de ces répondants. Le pourcentage des individus qui ont *répondu autres* langues atteint ou dépasse les 10% pour deux autres États membres. En Espagne, 14% des répondants affirment avoir une langue autre que l'espagnol comme langue maternelle, probablement le catalan, le galicien, le basque etc. En Irlande, le chiffre est de 10%, sans nul doute des irlandophones.

AVIS AU LECTEUR

Depuis sa création en 1992, le Centre d'Information de Bruxelles du Bureau Européen pour les langues moins répandues a pu rassembler systématiquement des livres, des rapports, des revues, et des coupures de presse concernant les langues et les cultures minoritaires. Il va de soi qu'une documentation représentative en la matière dans notre Centre doit constamment être mise au point et actualisée.

C'est pourquoi nous demandons à nouveau la collaboration de tous nos lecteurs: envoyez-nous des livres, des brochures et des revues, ainsi que l'annonce des publications nouvelles ou des projets, à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessous. Nous vous remercions de votre collaboration.

Le Bureau européen-Centre d'Information de Bruxelles, rue Saint Josse 49,B-1030 Bruxelles

Les compétences en deuxième langue étaient les plus élevées au Luxembourg où 89% de la population prétend être capable de parler le français, 88%, l'allemand et 46%, l'anglais. Les Pays-Bas et la Belgique semblaient bien se défendre aussi dans ce domaine.

Dónall Ó Riagáin

NOUVELLES PUBLICATIONS

Au cours de la première semaine d'avril, Mercator-Éducation publira son quatrième aperçu annuel des stages en langues minoritaires dans l'Union européenne. Cet aperçu contient des détails d'ordre pratique pour toutes les personnes désireuses de suivre un stage en une langue minoritaire sur les organisateurs, la durée des stages, les frais d'inscription, le niveau etc. Les responsables de la publication s'attendent à ce que le nombre des stages inscrits jusqu'ici augmente, notamment en raison des stages ayant lieu dans les nouveaux États members de l'UE. Afin d'en obtenir un exemplaire gratuit, veuillez vous adresser à
Mercator-Éducation, P.O. Box 54, 8900AB Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Pays-Bas

The Changing Voices of Europe: Social and political changes and their linguistic repercussions, past, present and future - Sous la direction de M. M. Perry, W. V. Davies et R. A. M. Temple. The University of Wales Press/Modern Humanities Research Association, Cardiff, 1994. ISBN 0-7083-1259-4. 335 pages. Un recueil de vingt-et-une contributions en l'honneur de Glanville Price dont l'intérêt pour les langues romanes et celtiques se manifeste dans la majorité des textes du volume. Les contributions concernant le français traitent, entre autres, de la standardisation du français aux seizième et dix-septième siècles, de la représentation politique et institutionnelle du français actuel et du dialecte parlé au centre de Paris. Les autres contributions sur les langues romanes étudient les différences entre le roumain tel qu'il est parlé à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur de la Roumanie, le problème des emprunts syntactiques de l'anglais vers l'espagnol et l'évaluation de l'aptitude à lire et à écrire dans la société espagnole du dixième siècle. Les langues moins répandues romanes dont il est question sont l'occitan, le piémontais et les langues moins répandues de l'Espagne. Parmi les contributions consacrées aux langues celtiques, deux examinent le statut du breton, l'une à la lumière de la législation récente, notamment dans la France d'après 1981, et l'autre relativement à l'identité culturelle et son acceptation dans le domaine de l'éducation. Les attitudes envers le gaélique en Écosse et ses perspectives figurent également dans l'ouvrage et trois textes traitent de la poésie, la standardisation dialectale et l'usage littéraire du gallois. En dehors de la linguistique romane et celtique, certaines contributions traitent de la survivance de l'arabe sur l'île de Malte à travers le Moyen Âge, des points de vue changeants sur les dialectes allemands et de l'allemand parlé par la communauté allemande en Russie. Enfin, trois textes s'intéressent de façon plus générale aux langues en Europe et discutent les notions de langue et dialecte, l'idée d'une langue européenne commune à base romane et le rôle que joue la langue dans le processus de 'construction d'une nation'.

Language Problems and Language Planning, vol. 18, 3, automne 1994, pages 179-302. Un numéro spécial sur la situation des langues au Mexique et la linguistique mexicaine, sous la direction de Margarita Hidalgo. Les cinq articles dans le volume sont: 'Bilingual Education, Nationalism and Ethnicity in Mexico' (Hidalgo), 'Las lenguas amerindias y la conformación de la lengua nacional en México en el siglo XIX' (Bárbara Cifuentes), 'Tracing Mexican Spanish /s/: A Cross-Section of History' (John M. Lipski), 'Afro- Mestizo Speech from Costa Chica, Guerrero: From Cuaji to Cuijla' (Daniel Althoff), et 'La influencia de "los de abajo" en tres procesos de cambio lingüístico en el español de Morelia, Michocán' (Manuel J. Gutiérrez). Ce numéro intéressera donc tout particulièrement les personnes travaillant dans les domaines de la sociolinguistique, des langues indigènes américaines et de l'espagnol.

Poésie de Wallonie en langue picarde, wallonne et lorraine - Publié par Traditions et Parlers populaires, Wallonie-Bruxelles asbl. Un recueil de poèmes de la région wallonne groupés selon les variantes mentionnées dans le titre. Chaque groupe de poèmes est précédé une introduction sur la tradition culturelle et littéraire de la région en question ainsi que sur l'oeuvre des poètes tandis que diverses illustrations représentent des vues typiques. Les poèmes sont traduits en français. 88 pages.
ISBN 2-930047-08-9.

Das Galicische: Eine Fallstudie zur Verschriftlichungsproblematik romanischer Minderheitensprachen - Michaela Luyken. Pro Lingua vol. 19. La thèse de doctorat de M. Luyken (Mannheim, 1992) présente une étude détaillée du développement de l'orthographe du galicien moderne ainsi qu'une vue d'ensemble diachronique et une classification linguistique. La première partie (chapitres 1 à 3) traite de politique et de planification linguistiques d'une façon générale ainsi que de systèmes d'orthographe alors que la seconde (chapitres 4 à 7) s'intéresse plus particulièrement au galicien. Suit une brève conclusion (chapitre 8) et, en annexe, un poème en galicien ainsi que quelques exemples d'orthographe. L'ouvrage contient également une bibliographie considérable. 331 pages. ISBN 3-926972-34-3.

Come diseut m'grand pére: Proverbes et dictons en wallon carolorégien - Robert Arcq. Ce recueil de proverbes et dictons wallons est une nouvelle édition augmentée de la publication originale de 1982, publiée par l'Association littéraire wallonne de Charleroi en honneur de feu Robert Arcq (1925-1994). L'ouvrage contient du matériel nouveau rassemblé par l'auteur ainsi que ses illustrations. Toutes les entrées sont accompagnées d'une traduction littérale et d'une explication du sens en français. Une petite biographie de l'auteur y est ajoutée. 120 pages. El bourdon, Charleroi.

Les Langues de France - Jean Bonnemason. ISBN 2-87785-297-0. 49 pages. Une introduction à la France plurilingue, destinée avant tout à un usage scolaire. Des illustrations en couleurs et des textes dans les langues moins répandues de France initient l'élève aux langues existant dans la France d'aujourd'hui, leur évolution de la préhistoire au vingtième siècle ainsi qu'à des concepts linguistiques clés tels que langue, parole et dialecte. Des commandes peuvent être passées auprès de: Editions PEMF, 06376 Mouans Sartoux Cedex, France.

Gwaith Cymdeithasol a'r Iaith Gymraeg/Social Work and the Welsh Language - Sous la direction de Rhian Huws Williams, Hywel Williams & Elaine Davies. Cardiff, CCETSW Cymru, Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru, 1994. ISBN 0-7083-1203-9. xvii + 204 pages. Gallois/anglais. Un recueil de textes sur le gallois et notamment sur son utilisation dans le domaine des œuvres et services sociaux. Trois textes traitent directement de ce sujet tandis que les trois autres abordent la situation du gallois d'une façon plus générale. Un index facilite l'accès au contenu de l'ouvrage.

Languages in European Business: A Regional Survey of Small & Medium-sized companies - Sous la direction de Stephen Hagen. ISBN 1-874016-21-6. 140 pages. Rapport de 'FLAIR-EUROPE' sur les besoins concernant les langues dans les petites et moyennes entreprises des régions industrielles périphériques de l'Union européenne. Des questionnaires avaient été envoyés à des entreprises dans sept régions de la CE par des organismes des pays respectifs, les régions étant le Pays basque, le sud du Danemark, le sud-ouest de l'Allemagne, le nord des Pays-Bas, le nord de l'Angleterre, la Bretagne et Pesaro-Urbino, en Italie. Les personnes interrogées devaient répondre à des questions portant sur les compétences linguistiques et l'utilisation des langues dans leur environnement professionnel ainsi que sur les besoins en matière de formation en langues à l'avenir et évaluer l'importance de certaines compétences en certaines langues pour leur entreprise. Pour obtenir ce rapport, veuillez vous adresser à : CILT Mail Order, P.O. Box 8, Llandysul, Dyfed SA44 4ZB, Pays de Galles, Royaume-Uni.

Ellenofoni di Callabria: aspette storici, linguistici e letterari - Antonelle Casile & Domenico Fiorenza, Università per la Terza Età e per il Tempo Libero della Bovesia-Area Ellenfona, Bova Marina. 150 pages. Une introduction à la culture grecque en Calabre, dans le sud de l'Italie. Après un petit historique de la communauté grecque dans la région, l'ouvrage introduit les diverses associations et institutions s'occupant de la culture ou la langue grecque. La deuxième partie du volume présente de la poésie calabraise-grecque contemporaine avec des traductions italiennes et grecques.

Le Droit à la parole - Noel Laine, avec un avant-propos de Per Denez. ISBN 2- 908021-09-0. 209 pages. Cet ouvrage traite de façon détaillée de la langue bretonne et notamment des dimensions sociale, culturelle et politique. La première partie du livre, cependant, est une discussion approfondie du concept de langues et cultures 'minoritaires'. L'essentiel de l'argument de l'auteur, c'est que pour que le breton survive, il faut qu'il jouisse du même statut juridique et politique que le français, en tant que langue nationale. Terre de Brume Éditions, 46 Rue d'Antrain, 35700 Rennes, France.

L'Enseignement du corse: histoire, développements récents et perspectives - Jacques Fusina. Edizione "A Squadra di u Finusellu", 317 pages. Se servant de diverses sources contemporaines, l'auteur retrace l'histoire du corse dans le domaine de l'éducation et examine sa situation actuelle. L'ouvrage fait souvent mention d'autres langues moins répandues de France qui sont affectées par la même législation nationale. Quelques documents juridiques pertinents sont placés en annexe.

Aspects du Moyen Âge en Catalogne Nord 2 / Aspectes de l'edat mitjana a Catalunya Nord 2 - Jacques Chaurand & Renada-Laura Portet, **La légende du cœur mangé / La llegenda del cor menjat.** ISBN 2-9508595-1-8. 124 pages (2x62). Français/catalan. Deux essais sur le thème médiéval du mari qui sert le coeur de son amante à sa femme et comment il a figuré dans l'œuvre du troubadour catalan Guilhem de Cabestang. Plus quatre fac-similés de manuscripts.

Lutz Marten

NOUVEAU RECUEIL DE TEXTES ORIGINAUX SUR LES DROITS DES MINORITÉS ETHNIQUES

Christoph Pan, en collaboration avec Irene Kustatscher et Beatrice Belleli : **Quellensammlung zum Entwurf einer Charta der Volksgruppenrechte. Ethnos, vol. 44, sous la direction de Eva Maria Barki, Felix Ermacora, Michael Geistlinger, Guy Héraud, Otto Klimminich, Han Klecatsky, Christoph Pan, Anton Schwob, Folmer Wisti. 1994. Broché, 164 pages. DM 37. SCH 260, FS 33. ISBN : 3 7003 1066 8.**

Wilhelm Braumuller, Universitats- Verlagsbuchhandlung Ges. m. b. H., Servitengasse 5, A-1092 Vienne. Tél. : (0222) 319 11 59, 319 14 82. Télécopie : (0222) 310 28 05.

L'auteur de ce recueil de textes originaux est également coauteur du projet de charte des droits des minorités ethniques qui a été présenté au Parlement européen par la FUEN (l'Union fédéraliste des minorités ethniques européennes). Pour le débat parlementaire du projet, qui a été déposé par le député européen Dr. Siegbert Alber et parrainé par la FUEN, l'auteur a collationné et soigneusement préparé un corpus de matériaux recueillis au cours de longues années de recherche et mis à jour afin d'inclure les sources les plus récentes. Les sources juridiques aussi bien que politiques sont prises en compte.

En vue d'une traduction technique exacte, le recueil comporte également un lexique des termes techniques les plus importants en quatre langues officielles de l'Union européenne. En vente dans toutes les librairies.

LES MEMBRES DU PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN CONTRE LA MENACE DE DESTRUCTION DE TERRITOIRES DE PEUPLEMENT SORABE EN BASSE-LUSACE

Le 16 novembre dernier, une délégation de la minorité sorabe en Allemagne a été reçue par l'intergroupe pour les langues minoritaires au Parlement européen, invitée par Frau Elisabeth Schroedter, député du Parlement européen, parti des Verts. Les représentants sorabes sont exposé la situation dramatique à laquelle sont confrontés les Sorabes vivant dans la région de Basse-Lusace aux nombreux députés présents et leur ont demandé de soutenir leurs efforts pour obtenir des droits constitutionnels.

Selon une résolution du gouvernement du Brandenburg, la surface d'extraction du lignite de Janschwalde, en Basse-Lusace, doit être augmentée. Ce qui n'a toutefois pas été pris en considération, c'est que pour augmenter cette superficie, un territoire de peuplement sorabe complet doit être rasé. Le projet d'extraction du lignite du gouvernement du Brandenburg inclut notamment la décision prise par le département de l'aménagement des villes et des campagnes de réinstaller la communauté de Horno. La réinstallation des 380 habitants de la communauté de Horno, qui possèdent 113 propriétés, doit commencer en 1996. En 2002, les bulldozers doivent raser Horno.

Le président de Domowina, l'organisation mère des groupes sorabes, qui était présent à Strasbourg, ainsi que le maire d'Horno sont tous deux d'avis que la résolution du gouvernement du Brandenburg est en contradiction avec la constitution du Land de Brandenburg dans laquelle est ancré le droit de protéger, de préserver et de promouvoir la langue et l'identité culturelle des Sorabes. En termes pressants, ils ont lancé l'avertissement suivant : " La dévastation d'Horno signifierait la perpétuation de la destruction de territoires de peuplement sorabe, le déclinaccru des conditions de vie des habitants des villages biculturels de Heinersbruck, Radewiese et Janschwalde, et une plus ample dévastation de l'environnement, catastrophique et irréversible, des territoires de peuplement sorabe. Vu que la langue sorabe est déjà en train de disparaître, le projet aboutirait à la migration de la population, et avant tout des jeunes, et par conséquent à une plus grande assimilation forcée des Sorabes dans le Brandenburg."

Le Parlement européen a traité la question des droits des minorités dans les États membres dans de nombreuses résolutions. Les articles 126 et 128 du Traité de la Communauté européenne, la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires, la Déclaration de Vienne 1993 du Conseil de l'Europe, le document final de la conférence de Copenhague sur la dimension humaine de la CSCE, et la Charte pour une nouvelle Europe, adoptée à Paris, forment tous un cadre juridique pour la protection des minorités, même au sein des États membres de l'Union européenne.

Elisabeth Schroedter, née dans le Brandenburg, pense que le Parlement européen a par conséquent des raisons légitimes de s'occuper des récents événements en Basse-Lusace et elle a suggéré qu'une déclaration écrite soit préparée dans laquelle le Parlement européen demanderait que le gouvernement du Brandenburg respecte les droits de la minorité sorabe qui sont ancrés dans la constitution du Brandenburg et que la destruction- des territoires sorabes par l'extraction du lignite soit stoppée. Cette déclaration écrite est ouverte à la signature depuis la mi-janvier. Conformément à l'arrêt du Parlement européen, la signature de la majorité des députés du Parlement européen est requise pour que la déclaration écrite soit publiée dans le Journal officiel des Communautés européennes.

Le Parlement européen

vu ses résolutions du 30 octobre 1987 et février 1994 (1)

A. considérant que le gouvernement du Land de Brandenburg a approuvé la poursuite de l'exploitation minière à ciel ouvert du lignite à Jänschwalde qui menace de détruire des peuplements sorabes, et considérant qu'il est prévu de réinstaller les 380 habitants de la communauté de Horno qui doit être recouvert en 2002,

B. considérant que la poursuite de l'exploitation minière à ciel ouvert à Jänschwalde perpétuera la détérioration des conditions de vie dans les communautés biculturelles uniques de Heinersbrück, Radewiese et Jänschwalde, la dévastation irréversible de l'environnement dans les territoires de peuplement sorabe traditionnels, la migration des jeunes et par conséquent le déclin accru de leur langue et leur culture villageoise,

C. considérant que la minorité sorabe jouit de droits en vertu de la constitution du Land de Brandenburg et du Traité d'unification de l'Allemagne,

1. Invite le gouvernement du Land de Brandenburg à stopper la destruction des territoires sorabes par l'exploitation minière du lignite;

2. Souligne la nécessité d'un système juridique pour protéger les minorités linguistiques qui soit efficace au niveau européen et international;

3. Invite les États membres à mettre en oeuvre les déclarations internationales sur la protection des minorités linguistiques et notamment à engager la signature de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires;

4. Charge son Président de transmettre la présente déclaration aux gouvernements des États membres, au gouvernement du Land de Brandenburg et aux communautés concernées.

(1) OF C 318, 30.11.1987, p. 160
OF C 61, 28.02.1994, p.110

RADIO EN LANGUE MOINS RÉPANDUE

Depuis 1981, les personnes parlant l'occitan, le basque, le corse, le catalan, le breton, l'alsacien, ou le flamand et habitant la région parisienne peuvent écouter et contribuer à des émissions en leurs langues respectives. Desservant la région parisienne sur 93.1. FM, île de France Radio Pais offre à ses auditeurs un grand choix de programmes parmi lesquels des informations régionales, des émissions de musique classique et régionale ainsi que des émissions bilingues destinées aux personnes ayant peu ou aucune connaissance de la langue régionale. Le service flamand, par exemple, offre une heure de jazz ainsi que des informations des Flandres et des Pays-Bas tandis que le service Alsace-Lorraine d'une durée hebdomadaire de deux heures est axé sur l'histoire de l'Alsace et de la Lorraine et les souvenirs de ceux qui y ont grandi. Le matériel qui compose les programmes est envoyé directement des régions par les collaborateurs mais provient aussi de stations de radio locales.

Avec plus d'un million d'habitants d'origine bretonne vivant dans l'agglomération parisienne, le service breton recueille des nouvelles et des informations de Bretagne et des autres régions celtiques. De plus, il est en liaison avec des stations de radio en Bretagne qui lui fournissent du matériel supplémentaire. La plupart de ses émissions sont diffusées en direct et la vie politique et économique bretonne y tient une place importante.

Les programmes en catalan comprennent pour la plupart des informations enregistrées et expédiées sur cassettes depuis le Service culturel de la Generalitat de Catalonia à Barcelone. Ce service est davantage axé sur la culture mais il existe un programme d'un intérêt considérable qui comporte des contributions provenant directement de Perpignan où les émissions sont faites sur place et présentent des interviews et des informations sur les événements de tout le nord de la Catalogne.

Les programmes de la Corse, qui a toujours des problèmes avec son image de marque, s'efforcent plutôt de faire de la publicité pour l'île et de faire disparaître les vieux clichés sur la Corse et ses habitants. Ils essaient de faire comprendre que défendre sa propre identité ne veut pas dire être antifrançais. Les personnes responsables de la radio en corse s'occupent par ailleurs d'autres manifestations telles que, entre autres, l'organisation d'une Foire du livre corse et une journée du film corse.

Tout comme la radio bretonne, le service basque Txalaparta produit ses programmes en collaboration avec des stations de radio du Pays basque, aussi bien nord que sud. Leur programmation fait preuve d'une forte politique bilingue et le mercredi soir les émissions sont spécialement destinées à ceux qui s'intéressent à la langue et à la région mais ne parlent pas le basque. A noter aussi, le mardi soir à 22h30, une émission au cours de laquelle les familles de prisonniers peuvent leur transmettre des messages.

Les programmes en occitan sont surtout le reflet d'une civilisation et d'une culture qui s'étendent depuis mille ans sur la région méditerranéenne du val d'Aran en Espagne jusqu'à la vallée occitane en Italie. Les genres musicaux diffusés sont très divers, allant de la musique des troubadours et du Moyen Âge jusqu'aux rock et rap actuels. Comme pour certaines autres langues mentionnées auparavant, les programmes bilingues sont produits en association avec le Félibrige et l'Institut des Études occitanes (IEO).

Radio Pais affirme que 80% de sa production musicale provient des régions de langue moins répandue de France. Elle fournit également un service d'informations régionales qui n'existe pas dans les autres stations de radio desservant l'agglomération parisienne tout en tenant lieu de radio communautaire puisqu'elle fait connaître les manifestations des associations et organisations locales. Depuis 1981, Radio Pais mène à bien son objectif, à savoir rendre service aux sept communautés de langue moins répandue de France en établissant un lien entre elles par l'intermédiaire de la radio dans l'agglomération parisienne. Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez contacter : **Radio Pais, CAP 118, F-93558 Montreuil Cedex, FRANCE. Tél. : +33 48 59 22 12; Télécopie : +33 48 59 20 78.**

ÉCOSSE : ART DRAMATIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE EN GAÉLIQUE

Bien que l'art dramatique en scots et en anglais ait connu un renouveau à travers toute l'Écosse ces dernières années, il n'en a pas été de même pour le théâtre en gaélique. Dans un récent rapport qu'il a préparé pour An Comunn Gaidhealach, une organisation culturelle s'occupant de promouvoir le gaélique en Écosse, Norman Malcolm Macdonald signale que ceci est un problème auquel il faut maintenant sérieusement s'attaquer. Dans ce rapport qui, d'après lui, essaie " d'identifier un mécanisme qui permettrait à l'art dramatique communautaire en gaélique de se développer à l'avenir", Macdonald souligne combien l'Écosse a besoin d'une organisation générale qui soutiendrait l'art dramatique amateur de tout genre en gaélique.

Il existe toutefois depuis peu en Écosse un certain nombre d'instruments dont l'art dramatique gaélique peut se servir, tels que les concours visant à stimuler l'écriture et la production de nouvelles pièces, mais trouver des juges parlant le gaélique demeure un problème. De plus, le Scottish Arts Council offre une bourse de £6 000 maximum sur deux ans pour aider financièrement un dramaturge ou metteur en scène. Plus de trois cents pièces sont aujourd'hui disponibles en gaélique mais ne sont pas produites. Le nouveau comité de la télévision gaélique, CTG, est un autre débouché possible. Des pièces pourraient être créées pour être diffusées mais ceci risquerait de faire beaucoup de tort au théâtre communautaire sur scène car un plus grand nombre de locuteurs de gaélique pourraient choisir de rester chez eux où ils pourraient regarder du théâtre gaélique sans avoir à quitter le confort de leur salon.

En vue d'encourager la production théâtrale, on a avancé l'idée d'un Théâtre gaélique en insistant sur le fait que "ce dont on a besoin, ce n'est pas que des individus écrivent des pièces mais plutôt que l'on guide et conseille les communautés afin de leur permettre de dramatiser leur propre et précieuse expérience, tout d'abord pour elles-mêmes puis pour les autres". D'autre part, le rapport suggère qu'on organise des concours d'art dramatique au cours du Royal National Mod (Festival gaélique annuel) ainsi qu'un festival annuel de théâtre. Quant au théâtre destiné aux enfants, il est bien mal pourvu et a également besoin d'être développé, surtout si l'on consi-dère les directives du Scottish Office à propos du programme scolaire qui comprennent un document concernant les arts expressifs, dont le théâtre. Macdonald suggère d'autre part que l'on contacte les établissements d'enseignement supérieur et les tienne au courant de tout art dramatique communautaire éventuel dans toute nouvelle Université des Highlands et des îles.

Que faut-il faire pour enrayer le déclin de ce genre de théâtre ? Voilà le défi que nous devons relever aujourd'hui. Les personnes s'occupant de théâtre gaélique sur le terrain, à qui on a posé cette question, répondent qu'on a fortement besoin d'aide, de conseils et d'une personne qui serait chargée de conseiller et de coordonner diverses initiatives visant à promouvoir le théâtre sur scène. Elles ont également vivement recommandé une coopération accrue entre toutes les organisations gaéliques pour relever le profil des arts gaéliques au cœur desquels se trouve le théâtre.

Afin de faire face à ces problèmes, on prévoit donc la création d'un nouveau poste de Responsable du Théâtre gaélique [Gaelic Drama Officer] dès l'année prochaine. Le Responsable du Théâtre gaélique communautaire aidera les divers gens de talent dans les communautés à se rassembler et à s'enthousiasmer pour le développement du théâtre en gaélique en établissant des contacts et en coordonnant des projets entre différentes troupes et organisations théâtrales. Depuis la publication du rapport, l'aide de Comunn na Drama a déjà été sollicitée pour deux projets de pièces communautaires sur l'île de Barra et à Lochaber. Pour de plus amples informations sur cette initiative, veuillez contacter : **An Comunn Gaidhealach (Comunn na Drama), 91 Sráid Chrombail, Steòrnabhagh PA87 2DG, ÉCOSSE. Tél. : +44 851 703487; Télécopie : +44 851 706467.**

CALENDRIER

"Conférence sur les îlots germanophones du Trentin" - 19/20 mai 1995. Cette conférence de deux jours a pour objectif principal de présenter à l'échelle internationale deux variantes de l'allemand, le cimbre et le mòcheno, qui sont parlées dans le nord de l'Italie. De petits îlots de locuteurs du cimbre sont dispersés dans les monts Lessini (Vérone) et sur le plateau d'Asagio (Vicence). On estime qu'environ 30% de la population locale le parle. Quant au mòcheno, il est parlé, selon les estimations, par quelque 1 200 personnes dans une partie de la région du Trentin connue sous le nom de Valle dei Mòcheni. Pour plus de renseignements sur cette conférence, s'adresser aux organisateurs: **Instituto Culturale Mòcheno-Cimbro, I-38050 Palù del Fersina (TN), Italie. Tél./Télécopie: + 39 461 550073.**

"Sixième Conférence internationale sur les langues minoritaires", du 30 juin au 5 juillet 1995, organisée par l'Association Kashubienne-Poméranienne en coopération avec les universités de Gdansk et de Poznan. La conférence aura pour thème: 'Minorités linguistiques et langues minoritaires dans une Europe en mouvement'. Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à: **Tomasz Wicherkiewicz, Université Adam Mickiewicz, Chaire des Études orientales et baltiques, ul. Miedzychodzka 5, PL-60-371 Poznan, Pologne. Tél./Télécopie: +48 61 616836.**

"Conférence d'une journée sur le bilinguisme au pays de Galles" - 10 juin 1995, bibliothèque centrale de Cardiff, pays de Galles. Depuis l'introduction d'une nouvelle loi linguistique et la création du Conseil de la langue galloise (Welsh Language Board), le gallois est devenu beaucoup plus 'visible' (devantures de magasins, signalisation routière, etc.). Cette conférence s'intéressera à l'impact de ces derniers développements sur la langue galloise. Parmi les intervenants, se trouveront des délégués du Welsh Language Board, du City Council et un représentant de Bord na Gaeilge, l'agence gouvernementale irlandaise chargée de promouvoir l'irlandais en Irlande. Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à: **M. Barry Tobin, Comhluadar Chaerdydd, 116 Stryd Brunswick, Tregona, Caerdydd CF5 1LN, Pays de Galles.**

"Conférence européenne sur la planification linguistique" - Barcelone, 9&10 novembre 1995. L'Institut de Sociolinguistique catalane et le Groupe catalan de Sociolinguistique appellent des contributions pour cette conférence dont le programme sera divisé en quatre grandes parties: approche théorique en matière de planification linguistique, modèles de planification linguistique, mise en oeuvre des politiques linguistiques et évaluation des politiques linguistiques. Des propositions de contributions sur ces sujets sont maintenant invitées et seront acceptées dans les langues suivantes: catalan, anglais, français et espagnol. Pour plus de renseignements, contacter: **Institut de Sociolingüística Catalana, Direcció General de Política Lingüística, Carrer de Mallorca 272 la planta, 08037 Barcelone, Catalogne. Tél. : +34 3 4825672/3; télécopie : + 34 3 2150455**.

"Sixième Festival audiovisuel des cultures minoritaires en Europe" - les 19, 20 et 21 mai à Aixe-sur-Vienne, en France. Ce festival, qui a lieu chaque année, décerne des récompenses à des réalisateurs de courts métrages dont le travail reflète des aspects des cultures minoritaires. Les films vidéo et les films en 16mm en version originale sous titrés en français sont acceptés. Pour plus de renseignements, s'adresser à : **Mairie d'Aixe-sur-Vienne, Festival audiovisuel, F-89770 Aixe-sur-Vienne, France. Tél. : + 33 55707700.**

"Dixième Congrès international des études celtiques" - du 23 au 29 juillet 1995, Université d'Edimbourg, Écosse. Cette année, le thème de la conférence sera ' Liens celtiques' et des communications seront faites sur l'histoire, la tradition, l'ethnologie, la philologie, la linguistique, la littérature, l'archéologie et l'art. Des spécialistes reconnus de chaque pays où les études celtiques existent participeront à cette conférence qui, cette année, sera davantage axée sur la jeunesse. Pour obtenir des détails, veuillez vous adresser à **10-ICCS, Dept. of Celtic, David Hume Tower, University of Edinburgh EH8 9JX, Ecosse. Tél. : + 44 131 6503622; télécopie : + 44 131 6503624.**

LA SITUATION DES LANGUES RÉGIONALES OU MINORITAIRES EN EUROPE[Conseil de l'Europe 1994 - réf. no. DLA (94.1)]

Lorsque CAHRL [Comité ad hoc langues régionales] travaillait à la rédaction du texte final de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires, les délégations des divers États membres furent invitées à fournir des rapports sur la situation des langues régionales ou minoritaires dans leur propre pays. Vingt-deux délégations ont accédé à cette demande et l'ensemble des rapports représente une source d'informations intéressantes ainsi qu'un point de référence utile pour ceux qui travaillent pour les langues moins répandues en général.

Même s'il se peut que les lecteurs de Contact Bulletin contestent certaines présentations, on doit dire que la plupart sont justes et pondérées. Si la délégation grecque n'a pas fait mention de l'arvanite, de l'aroumain et du slavo-macédonien, elle a tout de même fournit un rapport sur les minorités linguistiques en Thrace. Bien que jusqu'ici la Grèce ait eu tendance à prétendre que les musulmans de la Thrace n'étaient qu'une minorité religieuse, le rapport grec reconnaît maintenant trois minorités linguistiques: la minorité de langue turque, les Pomaques et les Tsiganes. [Le rapport grec a provoqué un échange animé de soumissions supplémentaires entre les représentants grecs et turcs, ce qui n'a toutefois pas amené la Turquie à présenter quelque rapport que ce soit sur les minorités linguistiques dans ce pays]. Il est également intéressant de remarquer que la France n'a fait aucune soumission!

Cette publication de 150 pages est disponible en français et en anglais. Pour l'obtenir, s'adresser directement au Conseil de l'Europe.

Dónall Ó Riagáin

Contact Bulletin est publie par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins repandues et est subvention ne par la Commission de l'Union europeenne. Les opinions qui y sont exprimees ne sont pas obligatoirement celles du Bureau ou de la Commission. Nous serions heureux de recevoir vos opinions, lettres, articles, representations graphiques... Veuillez nous les adresser a:

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L'objectif du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues est de sauvegarder et de promouvoir les langues autochtones moins répandues de l'Union européenne ainsi que leurs cultures. C'est un organisme indépendant enregistré en Irlande en société à responsabilité limitée sans capital actions et en ASBL en Belgique. Il travaill en collaboration étroite avec la Commission européenne et le Parlement européen, le Conseil de l'Europe et des institutions des Etats membres, à la poursuite de son but. Le Bureau est alimenté par des subventions provenant de la Commission européenne, du Gouvernement irlandais, du Gouvernement national de Luxembourg, du Gouvernement provincial de la Frise et de la Communauté germanophone en Belgique.

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IN THIS ISSUE

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Second Mercator Education Meeting.

Slovenska Evrošola

NEMCI
DANSKA

Great success was achieved by **Slovenska Evrošola 1995**, the meeting of the schools of Europe's linguistic minorities. This years meeting which followed the previous Euroskol (Brittany, 1988), Ewrosgol (Wales 1991) and Euroskoalle (Friesland, 1993), was organized by the schools of the Slovenian minorities in Italy with the support of the European Commission and the regional and local authorities. It exceeded the most optimistic expectations with regard to the number and to the enthusiasm of participants.

The event took place, as in previous years during the week after Easter, from Thursday to Sunday, which this year was from 20 to 23 April. The meeting was held over a very wide area, the region where Slovenian schools are found, and included, a trip to the Postumia cavesin Slovenia with the kind collaboration of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Slovenia.

The event started with a solemn visit by the participants to the "Risiera" in Trieste, the only Nazi extermination camp in Italian territory. This was followed by the official inauguration in front of Trieste town hall with the participation of 1200 children - representing schools throughout Europe's lesser used language regions. The meeting was then officially opened by the Vice-Mayor of Trieste, Roberto Damiani, followed by a welcome address by Ms Helen Ó Murchú, President of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. The fiftieth anniversary of the Slovenian schools in Italy was officially celebrated in the evening at the Slovenian theatre in Trieste.The second day was dedicated to games and sport when the children gathered in a sports complex for sack races, skittles, table tennis and other games - not so much to compete but simply to be together. In the evening, the guest groups met their local hosts in ten different places each with its little cultural event where they could compare their own songs and dances with those of the local Slovenian community.

On the third day, the Saturday, after the trip to Slovenia, the groups performed in a large circus tent in Gorizia: a show of voices, lights, and sounds, full of music and gaiety; three hours of sincere joy in seeing how young people from the linguistic minorities maintain their own language and culture. The event concluded on Sunday morning at Duino, with an evocative meeting in the Courtyard of the United World College of Duino, a very appropriate international setting for the event, with some songs in many languages and then the farewell with tears in the eyes of many participants.

School children taking part represented the following lingustic minorities: Irish (Ireland), Scots and Welsh (Great Britain), Bretons and Basques (France), Basques (Spain), Frisians (Netherlands), Germans (Denmark), Frisians and Sorbs (Germany), Ladin-speakers (Italy), Slovenians (Austria) and Italians (Slovenia) and , of course, all the schools of the Slovenian minorities in Italy.

Bojan Brezigar

More **Lesser Used languages** enter the European Union

With Austria's accession to the European Union last January six more lesser used language communities have joined the Union and are represented on the newly formed *Austrian Member State Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (see address back page.)* Other new languages to have joined the Union are the lesser used languages spoken in Finland and Sweden and articles on these languages will appear in future editions of *Contact Bulletin.*

Minority language groups in Austria consist of the **Croatians** in Burgenland, the **Roma** located also mainly in Burgenland, the **Slovaks** in Vienna and Lower Austria, the **Slovenes** in Southern Carinthia, the **Czechs** in and around Vienna, and the **Hungarians** in Burgenland. All six groups already benefit from protective legislation albeit restrictive in certain cases and they endeavour to play an important role in the political, cultural and economic life of the country as a whole.

Croatians

This linguistic group of *Croatian* speaking islets scattered all over Burgenland has according to their own estimates 35.000 speakers in addition to which a further 10.000 are resident in the capital of Vienna. Having arrived in Burgenland in the 16th century their geographical position changed many times since due to the moving of borders after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Today it is an area of high emigration and unemployment and is considered to be one of Austria's crisis regions. Legislation in the field of education allows for the teaching of the language throughout schools in the area. There are no all Croatian-language schools however and the language is offered in the form of bilingual lessons (alongside with German) or as an optional subject. 1992 saw the opening of a minority secondary school in Oberwart/Bort where three languages are taught in two classes: German-Croatian and German-Hungarian.

Since 1979 Croatian Radio has been broadcasting 42 minutes of Croatian daily while television has an output of half an hour a week. There is no daily newspaper but other publications appear from time to time in the language. As regards cultural organisations the most important is that established in 1929, the *Krvatsko Kulturno Drustvo* (Croatian Cultural Society). Cultural activities are mainly confined to music, literature, and pictorial and graphic arts. Burgenland is also renowned nationally for the success of its football clubs.

A large number of Burgenland Croatians have been forced to move to Vienna due to the bad economic situation referred to above and have been officially recognised as an ethnic group in the city since 1976. Their society the *Burgenland Croatian Cultural Society* in Vienna was founded in 1934.

Hungarians

Today's *Burgenland Hungarians* are descendants of so-called frontier guards who were brought to the area to protect the border. These Hungarians formed their own group and since the 16th century remained separate from the Croatians and German Protestants who resettled in the devastated area following wars with the Turks. According to their own estimates the present four Hungarian speaking islets of Burgenland are made up of approximately 15.000 members. Their numbers increased in 1956 when many Hungarians as a result of political upheaval in Hungary came over the border to set up new homes in Austria.

As in the case of Croatian above there are no all-Hungarian language schools and the language is taught either as an optional or compulsory subject along with German. A secondary school for the minority was opened in 1992 in Oberwart/Felsoor and one class is taught bilingually: Hungarian/German.

The situation of the language in the media is rather pessimistic with only one hour of television per year and no radio broadcasts. Three Hungarian language papers appear from time to time. The Hungarian culture per se is strong in the region thanks to great support and help from religious associations during the First World War but a strong decline took place due to suppression of this culture during the Second World War. With the establishment of the Cultural Society in 1968 folk dance groups and other cultural associations were formed which has led to today's strong cultural presence in the area. On a further optimistic note there seems to be some hope for the language's future in Burgenland as a result of its continual promotion as the business language of the area.

Slovenians

The *Carinthian Slovenes* live in the farthest southern reaches of Austria in the three Carinthian valleys of: Zila/Gailtal, Roz/Rosenthal and Podjuna/Jauntal and number approx. 35,000, according to their own estimates. A sense of national pride began to develop throughout the 19th century and in 1918 the Croatian, Slovene and Serbian State was established covering the former southern Slavic areas of the former Austrian-Hungarian empire. On December 1918 this new state united with Serbia and Montenegro to become the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians. Fighting broke out along the border areas however in 1918/1919 following which a plebiscite took place and the area fell to Austria.

As regards schooling, primary school classes in bilingual areas are conducted in Slovenian and German. 1957 saw the opening of a State Secondary School and a state Science School in Klagenfurt. In 1990 likewise in Klagenfurt a Bilingual Business College was opened. In addition to these schools there are two private bilingual schools in operation under public law, five private and four public nursery schools. Slovene also has a stronger presence in the media with 50 minute radio broadcasts per day and a half an hour of TV programming in the language per week. In addition to several periodicals three newspapers are published weekly. Like the Hungarians this community is quite strongly represented culturally with over 60 local cultural associations but economically the area is deprived and suffers from high unemployment and emigration, a factor which is bearing heavily on the language.

Roma and Sinti

Due to their dark foreign looks the *Roma and Sinti* were not warmly received when they arrived in Burgenland in the 16th and 17th centuries. They were looked upon with deep disdain as outsiders, heathens and spies. Most of the persecution against this people and their language took place during the Second World War and the Sinti and Roma were gathered together and sent to 'Gypsy Assembly Camps' which were scattered all over Austria and from there they were later deported to concentration camps, mainly to Auschwitz where they were killed. Of the 11,000 Roma and Sinti in Austria in 1945 less than half survived the holocaust. Today's Roma and Sinti live in isolated settlements and are continually relegated to the lower echelons of Austrian society, in spite of a willingness on their part to be integrated. Many of them leave their areas due to discrimination and head for the more anonymous environment of the city of Vienna and other large cities in an effort to start new lives. As a result of their presence in Vienna a *Cultural Society of Austrian Roma and Sinti* was established in Vienna in 1991 to improve the social and political situation of this minority in addition to reviving its culture and arts and by informing the Austrian public of the Sinti and Roma culture. The state formally recognised the Sinti Roma as an Austrian Ethnic Group in 1992. The language of the Roma - *Romanes* is not taught in the schools even though mention of it is made in the *Act of Minority Schools for Burgenland 1994(BGBl. 641/1994)*. The *Burgenland Roma Society* is at present trying to organise classes for children outside of school hours. The language has only scant representation in the media. A vital constituent part of the culture and identity of this lesser used language community is its music and its language, *Romanes*. The two main associations *Roma Society* and and the *Cultural Society of Austrian Roma and Sinti* are making great efforts today to track down what remains of its culture much of which was destroyed during the persecutions of the Second World War.

Slovaks

The Slovaks arrived in Vienna and Lower Austria during the 17th and 18th centuries and began to become culturally strong in the mid 19th century at the time of the establishment of *Slovanská beseda* (Slavic Cultural Centre) alongside the Bohemians. The number of Slovaks today is estimated at between three and five thousand. 1983 saw the establishment of the *Austrian-Slovak Cultural Society* which serves as the political representation of the community which was recognised formally by the State in 1976 as an "Austrian Ethnic Group". The language has a very weak presence in education and the media but speakers of the language are not as economically deprived as other Austrian minority language speakers in that they share the same standard of living as any Viennese residents.

Czechs

The Czechs, many of which have a merchant background settled mainly in Vienna. Following a cultural revival in 1848 together with the Slovenes, they founded the *Slovenská beseda* which still exists today and acts as a Slavic cultural centre. This cultural revival took a step backwards however during the Second World War when Czechs in Austria were subjected to strong oppression and persecution. Many of their cultural societies were banned and Czech resistance groups began to appear in Vienna. Following the February Rebellion of 1948 in Prague the Czechs underwent an ideological split and two groups were formed: *the Society of Czechs and Slovaks in Austria* (which supported the regime) and the *Council for Minorities of the Czech and Slovak Ethnic Group in Austria* which formed the larger of the two groups. Education in Czech is today organised privately by the *Komensky Society*. One nursery school and one primary school now exist but the language has no presence throughout the secondary school cycle. The same is the case in radio and television. *The above article was prepared by the Centre for Ethnic Groups in Vienna from where further information and booklets and maps on Austria's lesser used languages can be obtained:*

Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum, Teinfaltstraße 4, A-1010 Vienna,; tel:+ 43 1 5331504; fax: + 43 1 5355887

K. Smolle/D. Breathnach

The language of childhood and minorities

At San Pietro al Natisone (Udine Province, Italy) from 11 to 13 November, an international convention "The language of childhood and minorities" took place and had as its sub theme "Studies, Programmes and Experiences aimed at the Development of Minority Languages". The convention was organized by the *Nediza Study Centre of San Pietro al Natisone*, by *Confemili* and by the *Chair of Didactics of Modern Languages* in Udine University. In the view of numerous participants it was one of the best conventions on the subject. Thanks go above all to Paolo Petricig, for his great commitment in organizing the convention, and also to the numerous members of Confemili (Italian Committee of the European Bureau) all over Italy who contributed to the success of the convention with their active participation. Important was the participation of the Secretary General of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Dónall Ó Riagáin, of the President of Confemili, Domenico Morelli and of the ex-President, Leonardo Sole, who read a paper of a very high scientific level. There were also numerous exponents from the regional and local authorities. Among these were the Regional Councillor for Culture, Alberto Tomat, the President of the Province of Udine, Giovanni Pelizzo and the Mayor of San Pietro, Firmino Marinig. Also important was the presence of exponents of the Friulian world, the University of Udine and the Società Fililogica Friulana which confirm that the solidarity between the two minorities has never failed. Two senators were also present, Darko Bratina and Pietro Fontanini. It is difficult to name only a few of the speakers, as there were so many speeches, all of high quality.
As well as Leonardo Sole's report referred to above, others which deserve a mention include those of Prof. Renzo Titone, Prof. Nereo Perini, and Prof. Silvana Schiavi-Fachin. The address from the new Mayor of Alghero, Carlo Sechi, was also highly applauded. There was also a large high-level delegation from Slovenia, led by the Secretary of State, Peter Vencelj. In all there were 120 participants and this number itself is a demonstration of the organizational and also economic commitment of the *Nediza Study Centre*, the convention's organizer.

B. Brezigar

New Publications

"Sinti und Roma Gestern und heute" - *Mirella Karpati (Ed), Bozen, Kulturzentrum der Katholischen Universität,* 1994. A German version of the original Italian which deals with the history, culture and literature of the Sinti Roma. The first part deals with the origins of the Gypsies since their first appearance in western Europe in the 15th century to the persecutions of this century. The second part covers language and culture including onomastics and language usage. The final section offers an overview of their literature and excerpts from authors in the original and with a German translation.

"Lingua e dialetto nella Grecía calabrese: aspetti linguistici e culturali, in: Archivio Storico per la Calabria e la Lucania 59 (1992), pp 153- 172". This report consists of a very interesting sociolinguistic analysis of Greek Calabria, carried out in 1984 and from 1987 to 1990. The analysis took place in the region itself and involved over 200 people. Amongst the subjects investigated were the situation of the Greek language: its oral and written usage as well as the relationship between Greek as spoken in Italy and that spoken as mother tongue in Greece.

Wolfgang Jenniges

"L'Aventure des Langues en Occident Leur Origine, leur Histoire, leur Géographie" - *Henriette Walter, Paris, Robert Lafont, 498 pages.* H. Walter, Professor at the Université de Haute Bretagne in Rennes who is famous for her research in French Socio-linguistics offers in this publication a portrait of Europe and its languages, exploring their history and their geography. For the most part she deals with the Celtic languages but includes sections on the Romance and Germanic languages also. Lesser used languages in all of the countries are also mentioned in this well documented and serious contribution to European linguistics.

A-S Oudin

"Social Work and the Welsh Language" - *Edited by Rhian Huws Williams, Hywel Williams and Elaine Davies, published by CCETSW (Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work) and University of Wales Press, Price £7.95 (11ECU).* This bilingual volume contains a series of papers on some of Wales' foremost authorities on the language. It offers a framework and a sound academic context for understanding the relationship between language and good practice in social work and social care. Each paper considers and analyses the relevance of the Welsh-language in contemporary society. The authors also refer to the importance of ensuring that language planning becomes a key component in the provision of services.

"They all Speak Welsh anyway: The Welsh Language and Anti-oppressive Practice" : *Elaine Davies. Published by CCETSW Cymru in association with the Open University, Price £12.50.* This bilingual training manual explores attitudes towards the Welsh language and considers some of the core issues of good practice when working with bilingual service users. It includes cartoons and photographs and considers issues raised such as *What is the meaning of language 'choice' in a bilingual context? What can individuals and agencies do to ensure real language choice for users in Wales? And why is language choice so important to the relationship between user and worker?*

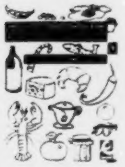
"Directory of Materials", *Published by CCETSW Cymru, Price £5.95* -This, the first of its kind lists Welsh medium materials covering a range of subjects which include mental health, community and child care. It also includes a list of publications on linguistic sensitivity and awareness generally, e.g. Bilingualism; Minority languages; the Welsh language; Sociology; Linguistics, Psychology. Information is listed concisely with reference to author's name, title, publication, date and with a brief outline of content and main themes.

The CCETSW (Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work in Wales) which published the above works has statutory responsibility for promoting and approving education and training in social work and social care. The aim of its publications is to stress the importance of language choice for users of social work and social care services which in order to properly ensure the delivery of effective high services must adopt a bilingual policy. According to the Council to ignoring the importance of language choice in social work assessments and care provision is unacceptable if not dangerous. It is impossible therefore to understand the relationship between language and identity and the implications for the delivery of effective social work services. Copies of the above publications and further information can be obtained from:

CCETSW CYMRU, 2il Lawr, Adain y Gorllewin, South Gate House, Wood Street, Caerdydd CF1 1EW, Wales; Tel: + 44 1222 226257; fax: + 44 1222 384764.

"John Benjamins Publishing Company - General Catalogue 1995" now available with listings of publications available in 1995 on Linguistics, Semiotics, Literature, Classics, Philosophy Cultural history, Art, and Art History. Available from John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsteldijk 44, PO Box 75577, NL-1070 AN Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS; Tel: + 31 20 6738156; fax: + 31 20 6739773.

"Basilicatese (Lucano)" *Rainer Bigalke (Univ. of Osnabruck)* is a 50 page linguistic study of this Greek dialect which had a recorded number of 600,000 speakers in 1976. Great stress is placed on the phonetics of the dialect with detailed descriptions of its vowels and consonants. Later sections deal with grammar and syntax in general. Published in Italian by Lincom Europa,PO Box 1316, D-85703 Unterschleissheim/ Munchen, ISBN 3-929075-32-6.



"Banaketa eta Kontsumoko Hiztegia/Diccionario de Distribucion y Consumo/Janari-edariak /Alimentación": A Basque /Spanish dictionary of food terms divided into various sections such as fish, milk products, sauces, breads, ice creams etc. The first in a series of dictionaries which will concentrate on different areas. *377 pages. Published by EROSKI. Kontsumitzaileen Kooperatiba, San Agustin Auzoa, z.g. E-48230 Elorrio (Bizkaia). ISBN 84-6051804-3.*

"Soreli Soleil-Friulan Poets of Today translated into 9 different Romance Languages" - (French, Italian, Romansch, Romanian, Sard, Occitan, Catalan, Portugese and Castilian). Poets include Enos Costantin, Galian Zôf, Domeni Zamer. *166 pages. Available from: Institut ladin-furlan Pre C. Placerean, Androne 7, I-33033 Çupicje di Codroip (UD), ITALY*

"Bilinguismo precoce e educazione bilingue" (1st ed. 1972; French translation 1976; 2nd ed. 1993) Renzo Titone. This publication deals with world-wide experiences in early bilingual education, psycholinguistic and anthropolinguistic principles governing schooling in two or more languages, and methodological guidelines in implementing bilingual curricula. *Published in Italy: ARMANDO, Rome, Viale Trastevere 236, I-00153 Roma*; Belgium pub: MARDAGA, Bruxelles.

"Grammaire du verbe provençal" - *Bernard Giély, 500 pages, 185 FF (+ P & P).* This is a comprehensive work of two volumes divided into 25 chapters containing 130 tables of conjugated verbs in Provençal. Grammar notes are also included. Available from Prouvéncou d'aro, Secretariat, Patricia Dupuy, 71 avenue Alexandre Delabre, F- 13008 Marseille.

Sorbian Publications

The following are some recently published titles on various aspects of Sorbian and available from the publishers *"Domowina Verlag, Tuchmacherstr., 27, D-02625 Bautzen, Germany. Tel: + 49 3591 5770; fax: + 49 3591 577243:*

Sorbische Bibliographie/Serbska bibliografija 1986-1990 - An overview of Sorbian publications in all fields during this period. 400 pages. 50DM. ISBN 3-7420-15842

Přinoški s stawiynam serbskeho piwmowstwa lět 1945-1990 -Mèrein Völkel(Ed). A description of writings in Sorbian after the Second World War to the present day as researched by Sorbian, German and foreign academics. *48 DM. 360 pages. ISBN 3-7420-1526-5.*

Bauen und Wohnen in Heide und Spreefeld Lotar Balke. A detailed study of buildings and living habits of the rural population of Heide and Spreefeld in the Lausitz region. *320 pages, price DM44. ISBN 3-7420-09540*

D. Breathnach

New Publications From **The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages**

Video: The Sound of Europe.
This video available in French, English, Italian and German is based on the Bureau's 1993 booklet of the same title and deals with the theme of multilingual education and its advantages for young bilingual children. The importance and advantages of bilingualism are strongly stressed throughout this 15 minute production with examples of children in bilingual situations and interviews with experts in the field. Available from Bureau offices (see back page). Price 10 ECU.

Unity in Diversity

Unity in Diversity - published in an updated version in English, French, German and Italian - is the general information brochure of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. The first edition is still available in Dutch and Irish.

This full-colour brochure provides an overall picture of the languages and cultures of the European Union, where there are more than 40 autochthonous languages in everyday use. Of the 370 million citizens in the EU, close to 50 million - over one in seven - speak a language other than the main, official language of the member state in which they live. These are an integral part of our cultural heritage. They include some of the oldest languages in the western world and many possess rich cultural, literary and academic traditions.

Key Words: *A step into the world of lesser used languages author: Silvia Carrel. The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, 1995, 60 pages, ISBN 90-74851-15-0, Price: 5 Ecu.* This consists of a small glossary where the most current terms in the world of lesser used languages are presented in a concise and incisive way. These key words make understandable ideas and terms that can be both near and far away from our daily lives.

The sequence of *Key Words* is alphabetical: thus this work is very easy to consult and it can provide the answer to frequent questions such as: *what is the origin of the Jewish languages? what is an Indo-European language? what is the difference between diglossia and bilingualism? what does "lesser used" mean? what is the attitude of the European Parliament towards minority languages? what are the organisations working for lesser used languages?* It is a real mini-encyclopedia of lesser used languages, dealing mainly with cultural and historical aspects. *Key Words* is a complimentary publication to another guide published by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, the *Mini-Guide to the Lesser Used Languages in the EC*. In the entries concerning the various languages, data such as the number of speakers have not been included because this information was already provided in the Mini-Guide. The author focused more on the historical summary and the cultural context. She has also included data on the lesser used languages of Austria, Finland and Sweden which have been part of the European Union since 1 January 1995. Available in English and French.

Images of Europe-Television and lesser used languages: *Living Languages series 3, author: Euryn Ogwen Williams, 1995, 48 pages, ISBN 90-74851-16-9, Price: 5 Ecu. Living Languages* is a thematic series about the use of lesser used languages in different fields of social life published by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

Images of Europe is the third volume of this collection and deals with the broad area of lesser used languages in television. Available in two versions - English and French, this booklet presents an overview of present and future initiatives in the audio-visual media, and the current models existing in the different lesser used language communities. The will to survive can be manifested in political acts. However, the will to survive is deeper in the consciousness of the people than mere political infrastructures can provide. Whilst the normalisation of a language in its geographical area is of prime importance at this particular time, its acceptance by the people as part of a living culture is crucial. This is why its representation in the audio-visual media as communicating a contemporary living culture is crucial to the act of survival. The tools of television producers have become more affordable, the means of distribution has become more accessible, and the market has fragmented. Having a part of the action at this time is so important. Interpreters of the culture, comfortable with the language, need to be given the structures which will develop their talent for the benefit of the language, and allow that language access to this influential medium.

Second Mercator-Education Network Meeting

Following the successful meeting of participants of the *Mercator-Education Network* two years ago a second meeting was recently held in Ljouwert, Friesland from 7 to 10 June 1995. This time around the *MERCATOR-Education Centre* located in the Fryske Academy in Ljouwert, concentrated on the collection of educational data and results emanating from three inventories on the position of EU minority languages at different levels of education.

Twenty four educational experts representing 16 different languages attended the meeting. They were presented with a new series of overviews containing elementary educational data prepared by the Centre in Ljouwert, which served as models for discussion throughout the three days. Representatives from new EU member states also attended and participants learned how in Austria, which has six minority language communities, there is a long standing tradition of bilingual education, even amongst communities which are numerically very small. Mrs Garcia Minguez from the European Unit of Eurydice described to the meeting the methods used by them in the collection of data which helped participants improve the overall structure and content of new dossiers.

More practical information was also provided in the presentations given on bilingual schooling in Friesland, Wales, the Basque Country, and South Tirol and underlined the important consequences for bilingual education in dealing with pupils from different linguistic backgrounds. It was considered important that Mercator-Education include comparative case studies on this topic in future research reports.

The first volumes of the long-awaited publication EMOL an Inventory study of teacher training (see below) were presented to the author of one of the monographs, Stefan Moal from Brittany and to Dr. Olga Profili who attended the meeting on behalf of the European Commision's DGXXII- Education, Training and Youth. A report on the meeting is now available from: **MERCATOR-Education, PO Box 54, NL-8900 AB Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, NETHERLANDS.**

Inventory on Teacher Training throughout Lesser used Language Communities

Teacher Training in Minority Languages for primary and Secondary Education A. Deckers. Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Fryske Akademy, 1995. Three Volumes 851 p (series: Education of Regional or Minority Languages in the EU - EMOL). ISBN 90-6171-804 Price Dfl: 100 (incl. postage and package).

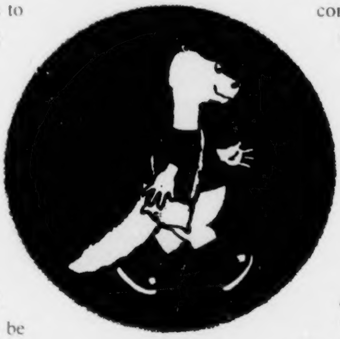
As teacher training forms a core issue in the provision of education in minority languages throughout Europe a comparison of the situation in the various regions can be a helpful tool in the promotion of bilingual education by resulting in ideas for the development and exchange of experiences between these language communities. Educationalists, teachers, researchers and policy makers over the years have been stressing the need for an inventory of the above with the resulting in the recent publication of a large inventory of initial and in service training courses for primary and secondary school teachers in 25 communities throughout eight EU member states. Subjects covered in the inventory include working methods, legal aspects, and the content and extent of provisions for teacher training. Available from Mercator-Education (see address above).

Mark Stuijt, Mercator-Education

Books For **Children**

Thanks to the dedication of a few talented ambassadors, interregional cooperation in areas such as culture and minority languages, which up to now has been too often only theoretical, is slowly being put into practice. For hundreds of thousands of children, belonging to one of the 35 lesser used language communities of Europe as well as for publishers of books in these languages for young people, there is every reason to be hopeful.

Anna-Vari Chapalain chose Kemper Brittany to relocate the *Children's European Publishing Secretariat* when it was looking for a new location and a new ambassador for its development in 1993. Directly financed by the European Commission and strongly supported by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, the Secretariat aims to "promote regional languages by increasing the number of children's books available in those languages". This it achieves by putting the publishers of regional languages from different parts of Europe in contact with each other so that they can cooperate in coproductions thus making it economically feasible to do so without being subsidised. Moreover, by sharing overheads and increasing the number of prints, quality works which compare well with publications in majority languages can be produced at a low cost.



The Secretariat's most succesful story to date is that of a little dinasaur. Whether we call it *Dewi*, *Devi*, or whatever (depending on the language) this character will undoubtedly become, for a lot of children, a symbol of vitality and pride in their endangered language. The publisher of *Dewi*, a little Welsh dinosaur and the hero of 4 children's books contacted Anna-Vari Chapalain for assistance in seeking partners for a joint project. Between August and December 1994, the Secretariat obliged and contacted potential publishing partners, presenting the conditions of the project, the schedule, etc. *Dewi* was officially launched in Cardiff on December 1st last with the publishers in attendance. The most European of dinosaurs speaks ten languages: Breton, Catalan, Corsican, Occitan, Welsh ,Scottish Gaelic, Basque, Irish, and Berber.

The economic factor of such copublishing projects cannot be underestimated. A few months after the launch, the sales figures were already remarkable in all the regions. Very soon, this print character will also be available in the form of a puppet, which will reinforce the impact of the character.

With the help of a grant from the European Commission and a board set up by the municipality of Kemper, the service offered to publishers by the Secretariat is provided entirely free of charge. A true "European public service", it allows publishers to produce children's books for the benefit of communities which are too small to guarantee that production investment would be worthwhile. "Children's Books", a newsletter printed in French and English is one of the means used by the Secretariat in setting up contacts between publishers of children's books. Apart from background articles on the situation of children's book in Europe, the newsletter allows different publishers to present their offers of, or requests for, partners in co-publication.

To succeed in creating quality books, with a universal appeal whose roots lie in the immense wealth of the regional languages and cultures of Europe is a formidable challenge. The work being carried out by the European Secretariat is therefore a great asset for Europe and for Brittany proving that language, culture, identity and openness to the outside world, along with economy and development, are not opposing ideas.

Contact: Secretariat européen de coédition pour les enfants, 55 impasse de l'Odet, F-29000 Kemper. Tel: +33.98522282.

Yann Rivallain

Alexander Langer 1946-1995 an Obituary

Alexander Langer was born on 22 February 1948 at Vipiteno and was a secondary school teacher, journalist and translator, having studied at the Universities of Florence, Bonn and Trento. His political and journalistic activities began in the mid-seventies. In the following decade he was active in the extra-parliamentary left in Italy and Germany. Co-editor of the magazine Bruecke (Bridge), he was among the founders of the Lista Altoatesina Nuova Sinistra (South Tyrol New Left List) in 1978 and that same year was elected provincial councillor. In 1983 he was elected provincial councillor in the "Alternative List for the Other South Tyrol" and in the subsequent legislature became group leader of the "Alternative Green List for the Other South Tyrol". Mr Langer was elected to the European Parliament in the "Smiling Sun" Green list in June 1989. President of the Green group, he was a member of the foreign policy, security and disarmament, transport, petitions and internal regulations commissions. He was also a member of the delegation for South-East Europe, ex-Yugoslavia and Albania and vice-president of the mixed commission on the Mediterranean.

He was an active member of the Italian Committee of the Bureau since its establishment. He supported and in many instances initated, measures in the European Parliment on behalf of lesser used languages - increases in the budget line, the Killilea Report, and as late as May 95 an amendment in the Bourlanges-Martin Report on the coming Intergovernmental Conference. A gentle, caring and compassionate man, his passing will be sorely missed by his family and many friends.

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Slovenska Evrošola

DANS CE NUMÉRO

Langues minoritaires en Autriche.

Nouvelles Publications du Bureau européen.

Livres pour enfants.

Mercator Education.

NEMCI
DANSKA

Slovenska Evrošola 1995, la rencontre des écoles de langue minoritaire d'Europe, s'est déroulée avec beaucoup de succès. Faisant suite aux précédentes Euroskol (Bretagne, 1988), Ewrosgol (pays de Galles, 1991) et Euroskoalle (Frise, 1993), la manifestation de cette année qui avait été organisée par les écoles de la minorité slovène d'Italie avec le soutien de la Commission européenne et des collectivités régionales et locales, a dépassé en nombre de participants et en enthousiasme les attentes les plus optimistes.

La durée de cet événement et la période choisie sont traditionnelles : la semaine suivant Pâques, du jeudi au dimanche, à savoir du 20 au 23 avril pour cette année. La réunion s'est tenue sur un vaste territoire, la région où se trouvent les écoles slovènes, assortie d'un «extra» consistant en une visite aux grottes de Postumia en territoire slovène avec l'aimable collaboration du ministère des Affaires étrangères de la république de Slovénie.

L' événement débuta solennellement par une visite des participants à la «Risiera» de Trieste, le seul camp d'extermination nazi en territoire italien. Ceci fut suivi de l'inauguration officielle devant la mairie de Trieste avec la participation de 1 200 enfants. La réunion fut alors ouverte officiellement par le vice-maire de Trieste, Roberto Damiani. Le soir, dans le Théâtre slovène de Trieste, fut célébré le cinquantième anniversaire des écoles slovènes d'Italie.

La deuxième journée fut consacrée aux jeux et au sport. Les enfants se sont rassemblés dans un centre sportif où la journée était consacrée surtout aux jeux : course de sacs, quilles, tennis de table et autres jeux — pas tellement pour la compétition mais surtout pour pouvoir être ensemble. Par contre, le soir, les groupes invités ont rencontré leur hôte local dans dix endroits différents lors d'une petite manifestation culturelle qui fut l'occasion de comparer leurs chansons et leurs danses avec celles de la communauté slovène locale.

Le troisième jour, le samedi, après le voyage en Slovénie, les groupes ont donné un spectacle dans un chapiteau à Gorizia : un spectacle de voix, de lumières et de sons, rempli de musique et de gaieté; trois heures de joie sincère à regarder comment les jeunes provenant de minorités maintenaient leur propre langue et leur propre culture. La manifestation s'est achevée le dimanche matin à Duino, par une réunion évocatrice dans la cour du Collège du Monde uni de Duino, un site très approprié pour l'événement où l'on put entendre des cantiques dans tant de langues puis l'adieu accompagné des larmes aux yeux de nombreux participants.

Les écoliers participant à cette rencontre représentaient les minorités linguistiques suivantes: irlandaise (Irlande), écossaise et galloise (Grande-Bretagne), bretonne et basque (France), basque (Espagne), frisonne (Pays-Bas), allemande (Danemark), frisonne et sorabe (Allemagne), ladine (Italie), slovène (Autriche) et italienne (Slovénie) et, bien sûr, toutes les écoles de la minorité slovène d'Italie.

Bojan Brezigar

FL023310

Des langues supplémentaires entrent **dans l'Union européenne.**

Avec l'entrée de l'Autriche dans l'Union européenne en janvier dernier, six langues moins répandues supplémentaires se sont jointes à l'Union et sont représentées dans le Comité nouvellement formé de l'État membre autrichien du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues. Les autres nouvelles langues qui se sont jointes à l'Union sont les langues moins répandues parlées en Finlande et en Suède. Des articles sur ces langues seront publiés dans les numéros à venir de *Contact Bulletin*.

Les groupes minoritaires de l'Autriche comprennent les **Croates** du Burgenland, les **Roma** qui se situent aussi en grande partie au Burgenland, les **Slovaques** de Vienne et de la Basse-Autriche, les **Slovènes** du sud de la Carinthie, les **Tchèques** de Vienne et de ses alentours et les **Hongrois** du Burgenland. Tous les six groupes bénéficient déjà d'une législation qui les protège bien qu'elle soit restrictive dans certains cas et ils s'efforcent de jouer un rôle important dans la vie politique, culturelle et économique du pays dans son entier.

Les Croates

Le groupe linguistique des îlots de langue *Croate*, disséminés dans tout le Burgenland, comporte, d'après leurs propres estimations, 35 000 locuteurs auxquels s'ajoutent 10 000 résidents de la capitale, Vienne. Ils sont arrivés au Burgenland au XVI^{e} siècle et leur position géographique a changé plusieurs fois à cause du changement des frontières après la chute de l'Empire austro-hongrois. Il s'agit aujourd'hui d'une région d'émigration et de chômage élevés et de l'une des régions en crise de l'Autriche. La législation dans le domaine de l'enseignement prévoit l'enseignement de la langue dans toutes les écoles de la région. Néanmoins, il n'y a pas d'écoles de langue croate et la langue est offerte sous forme de leçons bilingues (avec l'allemand) ou comme matière facultative. 1992 a été l'année de l'ouverture d'une école secondaire minoritaire à Oberwart/Bort où sont enseignées trois langues dans deux classes : allemand-croate et allemand-hongrois.

La radio croate diffuse 42 minutes de croate quotidiennement depuis 1979 alors que la télévision en produit une demi-heure par semaine. Il n'y a pas de quotidien mais d'autres publications apparaissent de temps en temps en croate. En ce qui concerne les organisations culturelles, la plus importante est celle fondée en 1929, la *Krvatsko kulturno drustvo*, (Société culturelle croate). Les activités culturelles sont limitées principalement à la musique, la littérature et les arts graphiques et picturaux. Le Burgenland est aussi renommé à l'échelle nationale grâce au succès de ses clubs de football.

Un grand nombre de Croates du Burgenland ont été forcés de déménager à Vienne à cause de la mauvaise situation économique mentionnée plus haut et ont été officiellement reconnus comme groupe ethnique de la ville en 1976. Leur société, la *Société culturelle croate du Burgenland à Vienne*, a été fondée en 1934.

Les Hongrois

Les *Hongrois du Burgenland* d'aujourd'hui sont les descendants de ce que l'on appelle communément les gardes frontaliers et qui ont été amenés dans la région afin de protéger la frontière. Ces Hongrois formaient leur propre groupe et, depuis le XVI^{e} siècle, demeurent séparés des Croates et des protestants allemands qui se sont réinstallés dans la région dévastée à la suite de guerres avec les Turcs. Selon leurs propres estimations, les quatre îlots actuels de langue hongroise comprennent 15 000 personnes. Leur nombre a augmenté en 1956 quand beaucoup de Hongrois ont traversé la frontière pour recommencer leur vie en Autriche après les bouleversements politiques en Hongrie.

De même que pour le croate cité plus haut, il n'y a pas d'école de langue hongroise et la langue est enseignée soit comme matière facultative soit comme matière obligatoire, avec l'allemand. Une école secondaire pour la minorité a été ouverte en 1992 à Oberwart/Felsöör et une classe est enseignée sur une base bilingue : hongrois/allemand.

La situation de la langue dans les médias est assez pessimiste avec seulement une heure de télévision par an et aucune émission de radio. Trois journaux en hongrois sont publiés de temps en temps. La culture hongroise est forte en elle-même dans la région grâce au soutien et à l'aide d'associations durant la première guerre mondiale mais un déclin prononcé a eu lieu à cause de la répression de cette culture lors de la deuxième guerre mondiale. Par l'établissement de la Société culturelle en 1968, des groupes de danse folklorique et d'autres associations culturelles ont été formés et ceci a mené à la forte présence culturelle que l'on voit aujourd'hui dans la région. Une autre remarque optimiste est qu'il semble y avoir quelque espoir pour l'avenir de la langue dans le Burgenland, car la langue y est promue comme la langue d'affaires de la région.

Les Slovènes

Les *Slovènes de la Carinthie* vivent dans l'extrême sud de l'Autriche dans les trois vallées carinthiennes de Zila/Gailtal, Roz/Rosenthal et Podjuna/Jauntal. Ils sont au nombre d'environ 35 000 d'après leurs propres estimations. Un sentiment de fierté nationale commença à se faire jour pendant tout le XIX^{e} siècle et en 1918 fut établi l'*État croate, slovène et serbe* qui recouvrait les zones méridionales slaves de l'ancien Empire austro-hongrois. En décembre 1918, ce nouvel État s'unit à la Serbie et au Monténégro pour devenir le Royaume des Serbes, des Croates et des Slovènes. Cependant, en 1918/1919, éclatèrent des batailles le long de la frontière à la suite desquelles eut lieu un plébiscite et la région échut à l'Autriche.

En ce qui concerne l'enseignement, les classes d'école primaire dans les zones bilingues sont données en slovène et en allemand. En 1957 furent ouvertes une école secondaire publique et une école publique de science à Klagenfurt. En 1990, c'est encore à Klagenfurt que fut ouvert un collège bilingue d'affaires. En plus de ces écoles, il y a deux écoles bilingues privées qui fonctionnent d'après le droit public ainsi que cinq jardins d'enfant privés et quatre publics. Le slovène jouit d'une présence plus importante dans les médias avec 50 minutes d'émissions de radio par jour et d'une demi-heure de télévision hebdomadaire. En plus de plusieurs périodiques sont publiés trois hebdomadaires. Comme les Hongrois, cette communauté est fortement présente culturellement grâce à 60 associations culturelles, mais économiquement la région est déficiente et souffre d'un taux élevé d'émigration et de chômage, un facteur pesant lourdement sur la langue.

Les Roma et les Sinti

À cause de leurs traits étrangers et hâlés, les *Roma et les Sinti* ne furent pas bien accueillis quand ils arrivèrent dans le Burgenland aux XVI^{e} et au XVII^{e} siècles. Ils furent traités avec un profond mépris comme étant des étrangers inconnus, des païens et des espions. La plus grande partie de la persécution contre cette langue et son peuple eut lieu pendant la deuxième guerre mondiale et les Sinti et Roma furent rassemblés et envoyés à des «camps de rassemblement tsiganes» qui étaient disséminés à travers toute l'Autriche d'où ils étaient alors déportés vers des camps de concentration, principalement à Auschwitz où ils étaient tués. Moins de la moitié des 11 000 Roma et Sinti virant en Autriche en 1945, ont survécu à l'holocauste.

Aujourd'hui, les Roma et Sinti vivent dans des endroits isolés et sont continuellement confinés aux échelons les plus bas de la société autrichienne, en dépit d'une volonté de leur part de s'intégrer. Beaucoup d'entre eux quittent leur région à cause de la discrimination et se dirigent vers l'environnement anonyme de la ville de Vienne et d'autres villes pour s'efforcer de recommencer une nouvelle vie. Le résultat de cette présence est que fut établie en 1991 à Vienne une *Société culturelle des Roma et Sinti autrichiens* dont le but est d'améliorer la situation politique et sociale de cette minorité ainsi que de faire revivre sa culture et son art en informant le public autrichien de la culture roma et sinti. L'État a formellement reconnu les Sinti Roma comme groupe ethnique autrichien en 1992.

La langue des Roma — le romani — n'est pas enseignée dans les écoles bien qu'il en soit fait mention dans la *Loi de 1994 sur les écoles destinées aux minorités pour le Burgenland (BGBl. 641/1994)* , mais la *Société roma du Burgenland* essaie actuellement d'organiser des classes pour enfants hors de l'emploi du temps scolaire. La langue n'a qu'une présence éparse dans les médias. Une partie vitale intégrale de la culture et de l'identité de cette communauté de langue moins répandue est sa musique et sa langue, le *romani*. Les deux principales associations, la *Société roma et* la *Société culturelle des Roma et Sinti autrichiens* s'efforcent grandement de retrouver ce qui reste de sa culture dont une grande partie a été détruite au cours des persécutions de la deuxième guerre mondiale.

Les Slovaques

Les Slovaques sont arrivés à Vienne et en Basse-Autriche durant les XVII^{e} et XVIII^{e} siècles et ont commencé à devenir forts culturellement au milieu du XIX^{e} siècle lors de l'établissement du *Slovanská beseda* (Centre culturel slave) avec les Bohémiens. Le nombre de Slovaques aujourd'hui est estimé être entre trois et cinq mille.

C'est en 1993 que fut mis en place la *Société culturelle austro-slovaque* qui sert de représentation politique à la communauté qui a été reconnue formellement par l'État en 1976 comme groupe ethnique autrichien. La langue a une présence très faible dans l'enseignement et les médias mais les locuteurs de cette langue ne sont pas aussi défavorisés économiquement que ceux d'autres locuteurs de langue minoritaire autrichiens étant donné qu'ils jouissent du même niveau de vie que n'importe quel résident de Vienne.

Les Tchèques

Les Tchèques, dont nombre d'entre eux viennent d'un milieu marchant, se sont établis principalement à Vienne et à la suite d'un renouveau culturel en 1848 ont fondé avec les Slovènes le *Slovanská beseda* qui existe encore aujourd'hui et tient lieu de Centre culturel slave. Ce renouveau culturel connut un revers cependant lors de la deuxième guerre mondiale alors que les Tchèques étaient soumis à une oppression et persécution intenses. Beaucoup de leurs sociétés culturelles furent interdites et des groupes de résistance tchèque commencèrent à apparaître à Vienne. À la suite du soulèvement de février 1948 à Prague, les Tchèques connurent un schisme idéologique et deux groupes furent formés : la *Société des Tchèques et Slovaques d'Autriche* (qui supportaient le régime) et le *Conseil pour les minorités du groupe ethnique tchèque et slovaque d'Autriche* qui était le plus important des deux.

L'enseignement en tchèque est aujourd'hui principalement organisé par la *Société Komensky*. Il existe maintenant un jardin d'enfants et une école primaire mais la langue n'a aucune présence à travers tout le cycle secondaire. Il en est de même pour la radio et la télévision.

L'article ci-dessus a été préparé par le Centre pour les groupes ethniques de Vienne qui peut fournir des renseignements supplémentaires, des livrets et des cartes sur la situation des langues moins répandues de l'Autriche : Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum, Teinfaltsraße 4, A-1010 Vienne; tél. : + 43 1 533 1504; télécopie : + 43 1 535 5887.

K. Smolle / D. Breathnach

La Langue de l'enfance et les minorités

À San Pietro al Natisone (Province d'Udine, Italie) s'est tenue du 11 au 13 novembre la convention internationale «La Langue de l'enfance et les minorités» avec en sous-titre «Études, Programmes et Expériences visant au développement des langues minoritaires». La convention était organisée par le *Centre d'Études Nediza de San Pietro al Natisone*, par *Confemili* et par la *Chaire de Didactique de langues modernes* de l'Université d'Udine. D'après de nombreux participants, il s'agit certainement d'une des meilleures conventions sur ce thème. Les remerciements sont tout d'abord adressés à notre membre Paolo Petricig qui s'est tant engagé dans l'organisation de cette conférence, mais aussi à tous les nombreux membres de Confemili de toute l'Italie qui, de par leur participation active, ont contribué au succès de la convention. La participation du Secrétaire général du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues Dónall Ó Riagáin, du président de Confemili, Domenico Morelli, et de l'ancien Président, Leonardo Sole, qui a prononcé une allocution d'un haut niveau scientifique, a été d'une haute importance. Il s'y trouvait aussi de nombreux représentants de collectivités régionales et locales. Parmi ceux-ci l'on se doit de signaler le conseiller régional à la Culture, Alberto Tomat, le Président de la province d'Udine, Giovanni Pelizzo et le maire de San Pietro, Firmino Marinig. La présence de représentants du monde frioulan, de l'Université d'Udine et de la Società Frilfilogica Friulana était aussi importante et confirmait la solidarité entre les deux minorités, laquelle n'avait jamais fait défaut. Étaient aussi présents deux sénateurs, Darko Bratina et Pietro Fontanini. Il est difficile de mentionner seulement certains intervenants, tellement nombreux étaient ceci et telle était la qualité de leurs présentations.

En plus du rapport de Leonardo Sole qui est mentionné plus haut, d'autres exposés méritent d'être cités dont ceux de Prof. Renzo Titone, de Prof. Nereo Perini et de Prof. Silvana Schiavi-Fachin. La présentation par le nouveau maire d'Alghero, Carlo Sechi, fut aussi fortement applaudie. Il y avait aussi une délégation importante de haut niveau de Slovénie avec à sa tête le secrétaire d'État, Peter Vencelj. Au total, il y avait 120 participants et ce nombre lui-même est une démonstration de l'engagement organisationnel et aussi économique du *Centre d'Études Nediza*, l'organisateur du Congrès.

B. Brezigar

Nouvelles publications

«Sinti und Roma Gestern und Heute» — *Mirella Karpati (Éd.), Bozen, Kulturzentrum der Katholischen Universität, 1994.* Une version en allemand de l'original italien qui traite de l'histoire, de la culture et de la littérature des Roma Sinti. La première partie traite des origines des Tsiganes depuis leur première apparition en Europe de l'ouest au XVe siècle jusqu'aux persécutions de ce siècle. La deuxième partie couvre la langue et la littérature dont l'onomastique et l'usage linguistique. La dernière section offre une vue d'ensemblé de leur littérature et des extraits d'auteurs dans la langue originale avec une traduction en allemand.

«Lingua e dialetto nella Grecía calabrese: **aspetti linguistici et culturali, in: Archivio Storico per la Calabria e la Lucania 59 (1992), pp. 153-172»**. Ce rapport consiste en une analyse sociolinguistique très intéressante de la Calabre grecque. Elle a été effectué en 1984 et de 1987 à 1990. L'analyse eut lieu dans la région et a impliqué plus de 200 personnes. Parmi les sujets examinés étaient la situation de la langue grecque : son usage écrit et oral ainsi que la relation entre le grec parlé en Italie et celui parlé comme langue maternelle en Grèce.

Wolfgang Jenniges

«L'Aventure des langues en occident, leur origine, leur histoire, leur géographie» — *Henriette Walter, Robert Lafont, 498 pages.* H. Walter, Professeur à l'Université de Haute-Bretagne à Rennes et célèbre pour sa recherche en sociolinguistique française, offre dans cette publication un portrait de l'Europe et de ses langues en explorant leur histoire et leur géographie. Pour la plupart, elle traite les langues celtiques mais y inclut aussi des sections sur les langues romanes et germaniques. Les langues moins répandues de tous les pays sont aussi mentionnées dans cette contribution bien documentée et sérieuse à la linguistique européenne.

A-S Oudin

«Social Work and the Welsh Language» — *Édité par Rhian Huws Williams, Hywel Williams et Elaine Davies, publié par le CCETSW (Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work [Conseil central pour l'éducation et la formation au travail social]) et University of Wales Press, prix : £7.95 (11 écus).*

Ce volume bilingue contient une série d'articles sur les autorités les plus prééminentes du pays de Galles sur la langue. Elle offre un cadre et un contexte universitaire solides pour la compréhension de la relation qui existe entre la langue et la bonne pratique du travail social et du soin social. Chaque article examine et analyse la pertinence de la langue galloise dans la société contemporaine. Ils se réfèrent aussi à l'importance qu'il y a de s'assurer que la planification linguistique devienne un élément-clé lorsqu'il s'agit de fournir des services.

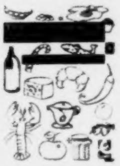
«They all Speak Welsh anyway: The Welsh Language and Anti-oppressive Practice» : *Elaine Davies. Publié par le CCETSW Cymru en association avec l'Open University, prix : £12.50.* Ce manuel bilingue de formation explore les attitudes envers la langue galloise et examine certaines des questions centrales de la bonne pratique lorsqu'il s'agit de travailler avec des utilisateurs bilingues. Il comprend des dessins et des photos et examine des problèmes soulevés tels que : *quel est le sens du choix de la langue dans un contexte bilingue? Que peuvent faire les individus et les agences pour s'assurer qu'il existe un véritable choix de la langue pour les usagers au pays de Galles? Et pourquoi est-ce que le choix de la langue est si important pour la relation entre l'usager et le travailleur?.*

«Directory of Materials», *publié par le CCETSW Cymru, prix : £5.95* — Il s'agit ici de la toute première liste de matériaux en langue galloise couvrant toute une série de sujets dont la santé mentale, le soin communautaire et pédiatrique. Il s'y trouve aussi une liste de publications sur la sensibilité linguistique et la prise de conscience en général, par exemple le bilinguisme, les langues minoritaires, la langue galloise, la sociologie, la linguistique et la psychologie. Les renseignements y sont énumérés munis de la référence du nom de l'auteur, du titre, de la publication, de la date ainsi que d'un bref exposé du contenu et des thèmes principaux.

Le CCETSW (Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work[Conseil central pour l'éducation et la formation au travail social au pays de Galles]) qui publie les travaux cités plus hauts a la responsabilité statutaire de promouvoir et d'approuver l'éducation et la formation dans le domaine du travail social et du soin social. Le but des ses publications est de mettre l'accent sur l'importance du choix de la langue pour les usagers des services de travail social et du soin social qui, afin de pouvoir assurer de manière correcte la fourniture de services de haute qualité, doivent adopter une politique bilingue. D'après le Conseil, ignorer l'importance du choix de la langue dans des estimations de travail social et de fourniture de soins est inacceptable ou même dangereux. Il est impossible par conséquent de comprendre la relation entre la langue et l'identité et les implications pour la fourniture de services effectifs de travail social. Des exemplaires des publications citées plus haut et plus de renseignements sont disponibles auprès de : **CCETSW CYMRU, 2il Lawr, Adain y Gorllewin, South Gate House, Wood Street, Caerdydd CF1 1EW pays de Galles; tél. : +44 1222 226 257; télécopie : +44 1222 384 764.**

«John Benjamins Publishing Company — General Catalogue 1995» maintenant disponible avec la liste des publications disponibles en 1995 sur la linguistique, la sémiotique, la littérature, les classiques, l'histoire de la culture, la philosophie, l'art et l'histoire de l'art. Disponibles auprès de **John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsteldijk 44, P.O. Box 75577, NL-1070 AN Amsterdam, PAYS-BAS; tél.: +31 20 673 8156; télécopie : +31 20 673 9773.**

«Basilicatese (Lucano)», *Rainer Bigalke (Univ. d'Osnabrück)* est une étude linguistique de 50 pages de ce dialecte dont le nombre de locuteurs enregistrés était de 600 000 en 1976. Un accent important est mis sur la phonétique de ce dialecte assorti de descriptions détaillées de ses voyelles et de ses consonnes. Les dernières sections traitent de la grammaire et de la syntaxe en général. Publié en italien par **Lincom Europa, P.O. Box 1316, D-85703 Unterschleissheim/München, ISBN 3-929075-32-6.**



«Banaketa eta Kontsumoko Hiztegia/Diccionario de Distribución y Consumo/ Janariedariak/ Alimentación» Un dictionnaire basque/espagnol de termes d'alimentation divisé en diverses sections comme le poisson, les produits laitiers, les sauces, le pain, les crèmes glacées, etc. Le premier d'une série de dictionnaires qui se concentrera sur différents domaines. *377 pages.* Publié par **EROSKI, Kontsumitzaileen Kooperatiba, San Agustin Auzoa, z.g. E-48230 Elorrio (Bizkaia). ISBN 84-6051804-3.**

«Soreli Soleil-Friulan Poets of Today translated into 9 different Romance Languages» - (Poètes frioulans contemporains traduits en 9 langues romanes différentes : français, italien, romanche, roumain, sarde, occitan, catalan, portugais et castillan). On y retrouve les poètes suivants : Enos Costantin, Galian Zôf, Domeni Zanier. 166 pages. Disponible auprès de : **Institut ladin-furlan Pre C. Placerean, Androne 7, I-33033 Çupicje di Codroip (UD), ITALIE.**

«Bilinguismo precoce e educazione bilingue» (1ère éd. 1972; traduction française, 1976; 2e éd. 1993) — Renzo Titone. Cette publication traite d'expériences à travers le monde de l'enseignement bilingue précoce, de principes psycholinguistiques et anthropolinguistiques régissant la scolarité en deux langues ou plus et de lignes de conduite méthodologiques dans la mise en œuvre de programmes scolaires bilingues. Publié en Italie : **ARMANDO, Rome, Viale Trastevere 236, I-00153 Roma; Éditeur belge : MARDAGA, Bruxelles.**

«Grammaire du verbe provençal» — Bernard Giély, 500 pages, 185 FF (+ P & P). Il s'agit d'une œuvre détaillée en deux volumes divisée en 25 chapitres contenant 130 tables de verbes conjugués en provençal. Des notes grammaticales y sont aussi inclues. Disponible auprès de Prouvèncou d'aro, Secrétariat, Patricia Dupuy, 71 avenue Alexandre Delabre, F-13008 Marseille.

Publications **sorabes**

Les titres suivants sont des publications récentes sur divers aspects du sorabe et sont disponibles auprès des éditeurs "Domowina Verlag, Tuchmacherstr. 27, D-02625 Bautzen, Allemagne. Tél. : +49 3591 5770; télécopie : +49 3591 577243

Sorbische Bibliographie/Serbska bibliografija *1986-1990* — Une vue d'ensemble de publications sorabes dans tous les domaines de cette période. 400 pages, 50 DM. ISBN 3-7420-15842.

Přinoški s stawiynam serbskeho piwmowstwa lět *1945-1990* — Měrein Völkel (éd). Il s'agit d'une description d'œuvres écrites en sorabe après la deuxième guerre mondiale jusqu'à aujourd'hui et qui sont le fruit de la recherche d'universitaires sorabes, allemands et étrangers. 48 DM, 360 pages. ISBN 3-7420-1526-5.

Bauen und Wohnen in Heide und Spreefeld Lotar Balke. Une étude détaillée des bâtiments et des habitudes de vie de la population rurale de Heide et de Spreefeld dans la région de Lusace. 320 pages, prix : DM 44. ISBN 3-7420-09540.

D. Breathnach

Nouvelles Publications du **Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues**

Vidéo: Parler l'Europe. Disponible en quatre langues: anglais, français, italien et allemand, cette bande vidéo reflète le contenu du livret du même titre publié en 1993 par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues. La vidéo traite des avantages pour des jeunes enfants bilingues d'une éducation multilingue. Donc, on met beaucoup d'importance sur le bilinguisme dans cette production d'une quinzaine de minutes contenant des images d'enfants dans des situations bilingues ainsi que des interviews avec des experts du bilinguisme. Directement disponible auprès du Bureau (voir adresses à la page 8) Prix: 10 écus.

Unité dans la Diversité

Unité dans la Diversité - la brochure d'information générale du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues - existe désormais en français, anglais, allemand et italien dans une version mise à jour. La première édition est toujours disponible en irlandais et en néerlandais.

Cet opuscule offre un cadre complet des langues et des cultures de l'Union européenne, où plus de 40 langues autochtones sont parlées quotidiennement. Sur 370 millions de citoyens européens, près de 50 millions - un sur sept - parlent d'autres langues que celles officielles de l'État membre où ils vivent. Ces autres langues sont une partie intégrante de notre héritage culturel. Elles incluent quelques-unes parmi les plus anciennes langues du monde occidental et la plupart d'entre elles ont de riches traditions culturelles, littéraires et académiques.

Mots-Clés-Entrez *dans le monde des langues moins répandues Auteur: Silvia Carrel. Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, 1995, 60 pages,Prix: 5 écus ISBN 90-74851-13-4*

Mots-Clés est un petit glossaire où les termes les plus utilisés dans l'univers des langues moins répandues sont présentés de façon concise et incisive. Ces mots-clés permettent d'accéder à la compréhension de concepts et de termes dont quelques-uns sont très éloignés de notre vie quotidienne tandis que d'autres reviennent avec insistance sous nos yeux.

Grâce à sa disposition alphabétique, Mots-Clés est un ouvrage très facile à consulter et il est à même de répondre aux questions les plus disparates: quelle est l'origine des langues juives? qu'est-ce qu'une langue indo-européenne? quelle est la différence entre diglossie et bilinguisme? quelle est la signification de "moins répandue"? Et encore: quelle est l'attitude du Parlement européen face aux langues minoritaires? quelles sont les organisations qui travaillent dans le domaine des langues moins répandues? Une véritable mini-encyclopédie des langues minoritaires, se penchant surtout sur l'aspect historique et culturel.

Mots-Clés est un complément à un autre guide, déjà publié par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, le Mini-

Manuel des langues moins répandues de la CE. Dans les entrées concernant les différentes langues, n'ont pas été inclues les données sur le nombre des locuteurs ayant déjà paru dans le Mini-Manuel. L'auteur s'est concentré davantage sur le précis historique, sur le contexte culturel, en incluant aussi les nouvelles langues moins répandues qui font partie de l'Union européenne depuis le 1er janvier 1995 avec l'entrée de l'Autriche, de la Finlande et de la Suède.
Publié par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues. Mots-Clés est disponible en deux langues - anglais et français.

L'Europe du petit écran - Télévision et langues moins répandues. Collection Langues Vivantes 3, auteur: Euryn Ogwen Williams. Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, 1995, 48 pages. Prix: 5 Écu ISBN 90-74851-17-7.
Langues Vivantes est une collection thématique sur l'utilisation des langues minoritaires dans les différents domaines de la vie sociale, publiée par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues.
La volonté de survie d'une langue moins répandue peut se manifester dans les actes politiques, mais elle est plus profondément ancrée dans la conscience de la population et va au-delà de ce que les simples infrastructures politiques peuvent fournir. D'où l'importance primordiale, à ce moment précis, de veiller à ce que la population accepte la langue minoritaire ou régionale comme faisant partie d'une culture vivante. Pour assurer sa survie, il est donc crucial que les médias audiovisuels la représentent comme un instrument communiquant une culture vivante contemporaine. Les outils des producteurs de télévision sont devenus plus abordables, les moyens de distribution sont devenus plus accessibles et le marché s'est fragmenté. Désormais, il importe d'être impliqué dans ce processus. Les interprètes de la culture, qui se sentent à l'aise avec la langue, doivent être dotés de structures qui développeront leurs talents au profit de la langue et permettront à cette langue d'accéder à ce véhicule influent.

DEUXIÈME **RÉUNION DU RÉSEAU DE MERCATOR-EDUCATION**

Suite à la réunion, couronnée de succès, des participants au réseau *de Mercator-Education* il y a deux ans, a eu lieu récemment une deuxième réunion qui s'est tenue à Ljouwert du 7 au 10 juin derniers. À cette occasion, le Centre de Mercator-Education, situé dans les locaux de la Fryske Akademy à Ljouwert, s'est concentré sur la collecte de données éducatives et de résultats provenant de trois inventaires sur la situation dans laquelle se trouvent les langues minoritaires de l'Union européenne à différents niveaux de l'enseignement.
Vingt-quatre experts en enseignement représentant 16 langues différentes assistaient à la réunion. Ils ont assisté à la présentation d'une nouvelle série de vues d'ensemble comprenant des données sur l'enseignement élémentaire qui avait été préparée par le Centre de Ljouwert et qui a servi de modèle de discussion durant ces trois jours. Des représentants des nouveaux États membres y assistaient aussi et les participants ont appris comment l'Autriche, qui comprend six communautés de langues moins répandues, dispose d'une tradition de longue date d'enseignement bilingue et ceci même au sein de communautés numériquement faibles. Mme García Minguez de l'Unité européenne d'Eurydice a décrit à la réunion les méthodes dont ils se servent pour la collecte de données qui ont aidé les participants à améliorer la structure d'ensemble et le contenu de nouveaux dossiers. Des renseignements d'ordre plus pratique furent aussi fournis dans les présentations faites sur l'enseignement bilingue en Frise, au pays de Galles et au Tyrol du Sud et mirent en évidence les conséquences importantes en ce qui concerne l'enseignement bilingue lorsqu'il s'agit de s'occuper d'élèves provenant de différents milieux linguistiques. Il a été estimé important que Mercator-Education inclue des études de cas comparatifs sur ce sujet dans de futurs rapports de recherches. Les premiers volumes tant attendus de l'EIFE [EMOL] (une étude d'inventaire de formations d'enseignants) furent présentés à l'auteur de l'une des monographies, Stefan Moal de Bretagne et au Dr Olga Profili qui ont assisté à la réunion au nom de la DG XXII — Éducation, Enseignement et Jeunesse de la Commission européenne. Un rapport sur la réunion est maintenant disponible auprès de : *Mercator-Education, P.O. Box 54, NL-8900 AB Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, PAYS-BAS*

Inventaire sur les formations d'enseignants à travers les communautés de langues moins répandues
Teacher Training of Minority Languages for Primary and Secondary Education, A. Deckers, Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Fryske Akademy, 1995. Trois volumes, 851p. (série : Enseignement des langues minoritaires dans l'Union européenne [Education of Regional or Minority Languages in the E.U. — EMOL). ISBN 90-6171-804. Prix : Dfl 100 (port et emballage inclus).
Comme la formation d'enseignants constitue une question centrale dans la mise à disposition d'un enseignement en langues minoritaires à travers toute l'Europe, une comparaison de la situation présente dans diverses régions peut se révéler être un outil utile pour la promotion de l'enseignement bilingue en donnant lieu à des idées pour le développement et l'échange d'expériences entre ces communautés linguistiques. Les éducateurs, les professeurs, les chercheurs et les décideurs de politique ont mis l'accent, au cours des années, sur le besoin qu'il y a de dresser un tel inventaire dont le résultat est la publication récente d'un large inventaire des cours de formation initiale et continue destinés aux professeurs d'écoles primaires et secondaires de 25 communautés provenant de huit États membres de l'Union européenne. Les sujets couverts par l'inventaire comprennent les méthodes de travail, les aspects juridiques, le contenu et l'étendue de ce qui est disponible en formation de professeurs. Cet ouvrage est aussi disponible auprès de Mercator-Education (cf. adresse citée plus haut).

Mark Stuijt, Mercator-Education

Livres Pour **Enfants**

Portée par l'action de quelques ambassadeurs de talent la coopération interrégionale en matière de culture et de langues minoritaires, trop souvent théorique, passe progressivement dans le domaine de la pratique. Pour les centaines de milliers d'enfants appartenant à l'une des 35 communautés linguistiques non-officielles de l'Union européenne ainsi que pour les éditeurs qui travaillent à la difffusion de leurs langues auprès des plus jeunes, tous les espoirs sont désormais permis.

C'est à Kemper qu'Anna Vari Chapalain a choisi d'implanter le secrétariat européen de coédition pour les enfants, lorsque celui-ci s'est cherché un nouveau lieu et un nouvel ambassadeur pour son développement en 1993. Directement financé par la Commission européenne et toujours soutenu par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, il a pour objectif de "favoriser la diffusion des langues moins répandues à travers la multiplication des livres pour enfants". Concrètement, le secrétariat met en relation les éditeurs en langues minoritaires afin que ceux-ci puissent réaliser des coproductions et rendre ainsi l'édition en langue minoritaire économiquement viable sans subventions. De plus le partage des frais fixes et l'addition de tirages permet de réaliser à moindre coût des ouvrages de qualité qui n'ont pas à rougir devant les productions en langues officielles.

L'exemple de succès le plus éclatant pour le secrétariat est un petit dinosaure... Qu'on le nomme Dewi, Divi,.. ce personnage deviendra sans doute dans le coeur de beaucoup d'enfants un objet de fierté et un symbole de vitalité de leur langue tant menacée. Dewi est un petit dinosaure gallois, héros de 4 livres pour jeunes enfants dont l'éditeur a contacté Anna Vari Chapalain pour trouver des partenaires intéressés par le projet. D'août à décembre 1994, le secrétariat a pleinement rempli sa mission: contacter les partenaires potentiels, présenter les conditions de l'offre, les délais, ... Imprimé en novembre au pays de Galles, Dewi a été présenté officiellement à Cardiff le 1er décembre en présence des éditeurs. Le plus européen des dinosaures parle 9 langues: le breton, le catalan, le corse, l'occitan, le gallois, le berbère, le gaélique d'Ecosse, i'rlandais, le basque et.

L'intérêt économique n'est pas moindre: quelques mois après le lancement, les ventes sont déjà remarquables pour l'ensemble des régions. Prochainement le héros imprimé sera également adapté en marionnette pour renforcer l'impact du personnage.

Grâce à un budget accordé par la Commission européenne, et à un bureau mis à disposition par la ville de Quimper, le service rendu aux éditeurs par le secrétariat est entièrement gratuit. Véritable "service public européen", il permet de publier des livres pour enfants au profit de communautés trop réduites pour garantir l'équilibre financier et l'amortissement de la fabrication.

"Livres pour enfants", une publication éditée en français et en anglais est l'un des outils mis en place par le secrétariat pour mettre en relation les éditeurs pour enfants. A côté d'articles de fonds sur la situation du livre pour enfants en Europe, la revue permet aux différents éditeurs de présenter leur offres de coéditions ou leurs demandes.

Réussir à créer des ouvrages de qualité, à vocation universelle, ayant pour racines l'immense richesse des langues et cultures régionales de l'Europe est un pari formidable. L'action menée par le secrétariat européen est donc une chance pour l'Eureope et pour la Bretagne qui prouve ainsi que langue, culture, identité et ouverture sur le monde, mais aussi économique et développement ne sont pas des notions contraires.

Contact: Secretariat européen de coédition pour les enfants, 55 impasse de l'Odet, F-29000 Kemper.
Tél: ++33.98522282.

Yann Rivallain (article également paru dans Livres pour enfants)

Alexander Langer
(1946-1995)

Alexander Langer est né le 22 février 1946 à Vitpeno et était enseignant dans le secondaire, journaliste et traducteur après avoir étudié à Florence, Bonn et Trente. Son activité politique et journalistique débuta au début des années soixante. Au cours de la décennie suivante, il fut actif au sein de la gauche extra-parlementaire en Italie et en Allemagne. Co-Rédacteur en chef de la revue Bruecke (=pont), il fut un des fondateurs de la Lista altoatesina Nuova Sinistra (liste de la nouvelle gauche du Tyrol du Sud) en 1978, année où il fut aussi élu conseiller provincial, un poste qu il occupa jusqu en 1981. En 1983, il fut élu conseiller provincial pour la lista Alternativa per l altro Sudtirol. Langer fut élu au Parlement européen sur la liste des Verts du «Soleil souriant» en juin 1989. Président du Groupe des Verts, il était membre des commissions des Affaires étrangères, de la Sécurité et du Désarmement, des Transports, des Pétitions, de la Culture et des Règlements internes. En outre, Il était membre de la délégation pour l'Europe du sud-est, l'ex-Yougoslavie et l'Albanie et vice-président de la commission mixte sur la Méditerranée.

C'était un membre actif du Comité italien du Bureau européen depuis sa création. Au Parlement européen, il a soutenu et dans bien des cas a été l'initiateur de mesures en faveur des langues moins répandues - augmentation de la ligne budgétaire, Rapport Killilea et pas plus tard qu'en mai 1995 une modification dans le Rapport Bourlanges-Martin sur la Conférence intergouvernementale prochaine. C'était un homme affable, plein d'humanité et de compassion qui sera profondément regretté par sa famille et ses nombreux amis.

Contact Bulletin est publié par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues et est subventionné par la Commission de l'Union européenne. Les opinions qui y sont exprimées ne sont pas obligatoirement celles du Bureau ou de la Commission. Nous serions heureux de recevoir vos opinions, lettres, articles, représentations graphiques... Veuillez nous les adresser à:

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L'objectif du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues est de sauvegarder et de promouvoir les langues autochtones moins répandues de l'Union européenne ainsi que leurs cultures. C'est un organisme indépendant enregistré en Irlande en société à responsabilité limitée sans capital actions et en ASBL en Belgique. Il travailleen collaboration étroite avec la Commission européenne et le Parlement européen, le Conseil de l'Europe et des institutions des Etats membres, à la poursuite de son but. Le Bureau est alimenté par des subventions provenant de la Commission européenne, du Gouvernement irlandais, du Gouvernement national de Luxembourg, du Gouvernement provincial de la Frise et de la Communauté germanophone en Belgique.

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contact bulletin
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A SLAVIC LANGUAGE COMES INTO ITS OWN

"We solemnly declare that from this day forward our **Rusyn** language is a normative and codified language...and has become the literary language of Rusyns in Slovakia." With these words, the representatives of the *Rusyn Renaissance Society of Slovakia* proclaimed on January 27, 1995, the existence of standardised Rusyn. This language is for use by Rusyns, who since 1991, have been officially recognised as a distinct people with all due constitutional rights accorded each national minority in Slovakia.

The celebratory event held in the presence of representatives of the Slovak government, civic and religious organisations, and foreign dignitaries was the culmination of a cultural revival that began soon after the Revolution of 1989 and the demise of Communist rule in East and Central Europe. The initial stage in the language-building process took place in November 1992 at the *First Congress of the Rusyn Language*, which brought together over fifty Rusyn writers, journalists and scholars from all countries where this language group is to be found [Ukraine, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia].

Prof. Per Denez officially launching Breton's first single language dictionary (see p.2)

It is clear that the First Congress of the Rusyn Language of November 1992 has in retrospect proven to be a success.

Within two months, already in January 1993, the Rusyn Renaissance Society established an *Institute of Rusyn Language and Culture* in Prešov, Slovakia. During the next two years, the institute's small staff headed by Docent [Associate Professor] Vasyl' Jabur and Docent Jurij Pan'ko periodically met with Rusyn writers and grammarians from other countries to resolve common linguistic problems and at the same time worked with local writers and journalists to create a Rusyn standard specifically for Slovakia.

The result was the publication in late 1994 of a *Rusyn Orthographic Rulebook* [134 p.], a *Rusyn-Russian-Ukrainian-Slovak-Polish Dictionary of Linguistic Terminology* [230 p.] and a 42,000-word *Orthographic Dictionary of the Rusyn Language* and reader by a local teacher, Jan Hryb, provided the basis for the new Rusyn codified norm.

The formal act of codifying Rusyn in Slovakia has many practical implications. While the Rusyn Renaissance Society with its weekly newspaper, bi-monthly magazine [Rusyn], and book publishing programme have been supported since 1991 by Slovakia's Ministry of Culture, further use of the language in public life was stalled by government bureaucrats who argued there had to be a literary norm before any other kinds of activity could be undertaken. Now that the formal codification has taken place, the procedural way is open for the creation of a Rusyn-language radio programme for eastern Slovakia and for Rusyn language courses [initially two-hours weekly] to begin in September 1995 in ten elementary schools which have already requested a programme in Rusyn culture. To prepare teachers for the new programme, Slovakia's Ministry of Education has provided funding to create a Department [Katedra] of Rusyn Language and Culture at the Pedagogical Faculty of afárik University in Pre ov. The new university department, which replaces the Rusyn Renaissance Society's *Institute of Rusyn Language and Culture*, was formally established as of January 1995.

Thus, the celebratory occasion on January 27, 1995 announcing the codification of the Rusyn language in Slovakia was both the culmination of a democratic process that began with the Revolution of 1989 as well as an important concrete step that has created a medium for the further propagation of Rusyn culture •

Paul Robert Magocsi University of Toronto

In Brief

Geriadur Brezhoneg - Breton's first new single language dictionary. The **An Here** publishing house after seven years hard work has finally published the long awaited monolingual Breton dictionary which is primarily aimed at pupils attending Breton-speaking schools. The 1,300 page dictionary contains explanations for 10,350 words and terms in Breton accompnaied by illustrations. Further info available from: **An Here, 16 straed Jules, Henriot Kerdrezeg, F-29000 Kemper, Brittany.**

Get it Write - An exiting new development in Welsh information technology *CySill 2.0+* is an exciting new Welsh language spelling and grammar checking software programme recently launched by the Welsh language Board/Bwrdd Yr Gymraeg, and which will be invaluable for anyone working in Welsh on a wordprocessor, whether in the office, at home or in school. *CySill 2.0+* has been developed for the Board by a team from the Department of Psychology at the University of Wales, Bangor. The aim being to create a programme which would enable the user to write in Welsh with increased confidence, by highlighting spelling and typing errors, and suggesting corrections. It can be programmed to accept informal words and phrases as opposed to the more literary alternatives. *CySill 2.0+* is compatible with many wordprocessing packages, including Microsoft Word for Windows, WordPerfect, Amipro, Wordstar and of course Windows 95. The package includes a comprehensive bilingual manual, and a short tutorial which outlines some of the basic procedures. In addition, there is an on-line helpfile and a dedicated telephone help-line which provide yet more support for the user. The package costs UK£45 and site licenses are available for organisations with several users. Further information available from the **Press Office, Welsh Language Board + 44 1222 224744.**

Catalan in Luxembourg Residents of the city of Luxembourg with an interest in Catalan now have the opportunity of learning the language. The *Centre Català de Luxembourg*, in cooperation with the Catalan Government's *Departament de Cultura* is now running classes for beginners to advanced each Tuesday evening from 18:50 hrs at the BAK building in the European Centre, Kirchberg. **Further information is available from the Centre Català de Luxembourg, 24 avenue Victor Hugo, L-1750 Luxembourg.**

Conference on Languages and their Image will be held in **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland on 6-8 March next. Copies of the programme in addition to other information on the congress can be obtained from the **Institut Romand de Recherches et de Documentation pédagogiques, case postale 54, CH-2007 Neuchâtel, Switzerland.**

Youth of European nationalities Easter Seminar. The topic for discussion at next year's seminar will be *Tourism and its Effects on Minorities* and will take place in Zuoz, Switzerland from March 30 to April 5. For further information Contact: **YEN, c/o David Spinnler, Rütistr.2, CH-5400 Baden, Switzerland, tel: + 41 56 229982.**

III European Conference on Immersion Programmes will take place from 25 to 28 September 1996 at the University of Barcelona (Dept. of Psychology). The working title of the conference will be "Building diversity, developing cohesion: research and practice in immersion programmes" and its primary aim will be to create a context for the exchange of research findings on immersion programmes and of resources and procedures developed by teachers and educational organisations. Further information from; **European Institute of Immersion Training, Provença 324 1er, E-08037 Barcelona, Catalonia. Tel: + 34 3 458700; fax: + 34 3 458708, Tuesdays and Thursdays only 09.00 to 13.00 hrs.**

Conference: "Ethnicity and Language Community: an Interdisciplinary and Methodological Comparison" , 5-7 December 1996. Organised by the International Centre for Plurilingualism of the University of Udine (Italy) the purpose of the conference will be to examine in depth the issue of the relationship between the notions of 'ethnic groups, 'nation' etc and the corresponding linguistic categories in order to comprehend to what extent the language community contributes to the self-identification of a "large" social group and what contradictions a deterministic view of the relationship between language and ethnic community give rise to. Further information from: **Roberto Gusmani, tel: + 39 432 556460; fax 5565469; E-mail: CPL@CIP.UNIUD.IT.**

6th International Conference on Minority Languages (see also CB Vol 12 No. 1) 30 June - 5 July 1996, Gdansk, Poland. Further information from: **Tomasz S. Wicherkiewicz, Adam** Mickiewicz University, ul Miedzychodzka 5, PL-60371, **Poznan, Poland. Tel/fax + 48 61 616836. e-mail: wicher @ Plpuamll.amu.edu.pl**

Wales International Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences, March 20-23, 1996, Aberystwgth, Wales. This festival, entitled AGOR DRYSAU-OPENING DOORS will feature all the companies in Wales which perform for young audiences and will be a chance for foreign promoters and directors to see new work. Theatre companies from other lesser used language regions will also be invited to take part. Further information from: **Jeremy Turner, Arad Goch, Stryd y Baddon, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 2NN, Wales. Tel +44 1970 617998. Fax 661223**

D. Breathnach

El Contact Bulletin esta ahora disponible en castellano (incluida esta edicion). Los lectores que deseen recibirlo en castellano solo tienen que escribir al editor a la direccion de la ultima pagina.

DB

Electronic Map of lesser used Languages

The Danish Committee of the European Bureau for lesser Used Languages has been working for some time now on a project of a map of the minority languages within the European Union. The Committee intends to make use of new technology in this task and to produce electronic map, by means of which all the required information about the individual minorities of the EU can be obtained on CD-Rom (Read only memory). The project is at present in the initial phase - that is, studies are now being made into which companies can undertake the data processing work and how the system is to be constructed in principle.

The technology makes it possible for the stored material to be easily accessible. A simple overview screen leads the user through the system, in which all kinds of information about historical, cultural, social, political and linguistic conditions are available. A great advantage of the system will be the ability to update the information. This means that new information is fed into the system, and in this way the electronic map maintains its value in spite of significant changes within Europe.

The educational format of the system is at present under discussion. The starting point in all cases is the user - regardless of whether this is a 10 year old child or a grown-up person. Each user expects different answers to the questions which can be asked on the subject of minorities and their languages. The important thing above all is that the information - in whatever form - is put to use.

Jan Sternkopf

Language **Map** of Europe **as a Game**

'Tidoc-Projecte' [a pedagogical research group, set up by a team of teachers in Catalan schools] has been working on the creation of a computer-linked 'Game', aimed primarily at schools but which may be of interest to anyone. It consists of a database of the different languages spoken within the European Union based on information provided by CIEMEN and with the assistance of the *Confederal Spanish State Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.*

Basic data on the situation of European languages - may be obtained from any computer connected to a particular network. The information allows didactic use and exchange at different levels and includes a quiz 'game' among pupils from different schools.

Linguistic data are graphically presented on screens which allow consultation from menus. This means of presentation has been selected for its attractiveness, simplicity and the small amount of memory space required. The general objectives of the project are: to make young adults more aware of European languages and cultures in an effort to help them recognise that difference and linguistic pluralism play a major part in the construction of Europe.

For further information contact: 'Tidoc-Projecte', **Fundació H. Tudela, Avda. Tibidabo 16, 08022 Barcelona, or get in touch directly with CIEMEN, Pau Claris 106, 1er 1a, E-08009 Barcelona. Aureli Argemí, President of the Spanish Committee of the European Bureau**

EBLUL Youth Conference, Rome

This year's Youth Conference, organised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Langauges in March last in Santa Severa, a seaside resort outside Rome, was an historical occasion in that it was the first time that young people from lesser used language communities from both Northern and Southern Italy had an opportunity to meet. On the first day of the conference participants presented the youth activities of the lesser used language communities in Italy and in the rest of Europe, followed by a seminar on the second day which had as its theme 'the organisation of youth exchanges'.

What became apparent during the course of the conference was the discrepancy between the youth structures in Northern and Southern Italy. The Slovene representatives spoke of scout organistions, sports organisations, and choirs for young people. Astrid Höller who represented the Südtiroler Jugendring, the umbrella youth organisation in the Germanophone community in South Tyrol, spoke about the consultation service for young people, and the range of youth activities and training courses which are provided for the 12,000 members of the organisation. Such youth organisations were in direct contrast with the experience of the Albanian community in Calabria. Luciano Tocci, a young member of this community referred to the ongoing exodus of young people from the community which is mainly caused by unemployment. Despite the obvious divide between the Albanian community and their neighbouring minority communities in Southern Italy, and the minority communities of the frontier communities of Northern Italy all young people present at the conference demonstrated a genuine common dedication to youth activities. Since the youth conference, with the assistance of Peter Rustia, the Italian youth representative of the Bureau, an Albanian youth organisation is in the process of being established in Calabria.

The conference provided us with an excellent forum to discuss the diversity of our youth experiences, but it also provided us with the opportunity to pool our common resources with the ultimate aim of uniting in a common European heritage. The various pieces in the European jigsaw were put in place during the gathering: The new Austrian and Swedish youth representatives of the Bureau were welcomed by all participants. Marcello Jannarelli, the Secretary General of the European Federation of Youth Unions gave us first hand information in relation to the newly launched European Youth Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Antisemitism and Intolerance (organised by the Council of Europe). For once this seemed to be a youth campaign originating from the European institutions which bears particular relevence to the peripheral and marginalised minority communities. Finally, a professional youth trainer from the Italian youth association AFSAI (Associazione per la Formazione, gli Scambi e le Attività Interculturali), Mr Massimiliano Viatore conducted an intensive seminar on youth exchanges.

All in all the practical dimension was emphasised throughout the youth conference which went to reinforce the significance of multicultural learning and tolerance of our respective cultures. However, a series of incidents coincided with the event which dramatically highlighted the absolute necessity for promoting such tolerance - children in Gypsy camps in Pisa,Milan and Austria were brutally attacked. The need for intercultural learning can never be underestimated, and gatherings and discussion forums, it has to be said, are small but important steps in the campaign against ignorance.

Caoimhe Ní Lochlainn

A Verdict for **Basque Radio**

EUSKALERRIA IRRATIA is the only Basque-language radio in Pamplona, the capital town of Navarre. Totally submerged in a Spanish-oriented society (35,000 Basque speakers out of a population of 250,000) work has been going on since 1985 on the establishment of a radio station which is seen as the watershed necessary for the language to survive. Thanks to our own efforts and money, six hours of daily broadcasting has been gradually achieved. Unfortunately we have not yet obtained the status of a legal radio station.

In 1990 a tender was offered for the allocation of FM frequencies and we submitted our request and our programme details. The factors that were to be considered as selection criteria were such that we had reason to be confident of our success: " a radio that will undertake to broadcast programmes on the history and culture of Navarre, and give its rightful place to its language will be of particular interest". When the decision was taken however it was two Spanish state radios that obtained the licence. One of them has never broadcast, as it sold its licence to another radio station shortly before it was to start broadcasting.

Demanding justice, we took the matter to court where in November 1994 we received a negative response. We knew that it would be very difficult to alter a Government decision, but we never thought that the reasons given by the judge would be couched in such terms of animosity against Basque.

If one considers that 15 radio stations broadcast in Spanish in Pamplona and that **Euskalerria Irratia** was the only one to apply for a licence to broadcast in Basque the comments of Judge Merino should be consigned to the minority languages' black list: "In view of the limited and monolithic character of Euskalerria Irratia, the language is well outside the framework of general culture". Effectively, any programming solely in the Basque language would be prejudicial to the development of culture in general." Culture is the fruit of cosmopolitanism." Basque does not exist as a mother tongue in Basque cities..."

In order to refute such inaccuracies we appealed the decision to the supreme court believing that an address of such imperialistic and archaic nature went against the personality, liberty and culture of a people and denied them their rights. The main way to a solution has been the recognition of support we are receiving at present from the people of Navarre. Even the Navarre government in recognising the meaninglessness of the Court's decision declared a day later in the Navarre Parliament "given that there will be a new allocation of frequencies this year it has been decided in advance that in Pamplona two offers will be open to tender. One for a Basque language radio service and the other for a Spanish language radio service".

Be that as it may, the revealing of serious errors contributes to a certain extent in correcting them and we would wish to denounce the unfounded arguments given in the court's decision.

Eugenio Arraiza, Iruñeko Komunikabideak, S.A., Antso Azkarra 96, 13°, E-31011 Iruñea-Pamplona.

Liverpool Tightens Ties With Europe

The City of Liverpool has once more confirmed its commitment both to Europe and to learning. The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Petrona Lashley, warmly welcomed to the City European visitors who were taking part in two events organised by the Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool.

First, Councillor Lashley applauded Lord Elis-Thomas, Chairman of the Welsh Language Board, when he launched an exciting new series : **Liverpool Studies in European Regional Cultures**, published by the Liverpool University Press. The series is edited by Dr. Mairéad Nic Craith and Dr. Ulli Kockel, as part of their work in the Institute's Culture and Tourism Research Unit. The new series takes a fresh look at 'Europe of the Regions' and examines the diversity and similarity of regional cultures in Europe and ways of managing cultural resources to encourage socio-economic development. Commending the series, Lord Elis-Thomas congratulated the editors on making 'a stimulating and original contribution to European understanding'.

The new series was launched during an international conference on Language Policy and Planning in the European Union, held in the Institute of Irish Studies at 1 Ambercromby Square, Liverpool. The conference was organised jointly by the Institute and ECTARC [European Centre for Traditional and Regional Cultures at Llangollen]. It was attended by language experts from different parts of Europe to celebrate and to protect Europe's rich linguistic and cultural diversity. In welcoming the visitors to the City of Liverpool, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Petrona

Lashley, said: "The holding of these two events [the conference on language policy and planning in Europe and launch of the new series on European Regional Cultures] shows once more why Liverpool is called the City of Learning".

The conference struck a positive and optimistic note. The tone was set by Lord Elis-Thomas, in his vigorous keynote speech he attacked the mono-linguists of England and set the theme for the conference - that 'the linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe is an integral part of our European heritage'. This positive, practical note was continued by other speakers who emphasised the value of marketing in language planning the economic opportunities of language development.

Besides reviewing the Welsh, Irish and Scots Gaelic languages, the conference discussed the Manx and Lallans languages, Low German, the lesser used languages of the Low countries, language policy in the Catalonian, Valencian and Galician communities and in the Balearic Islands, and the position of non-indigenous languages in the United Kingdom.

Further information: **Dr. Mairéad Nic Craith at the Institute of Irish Studies : 01+44 151 794 3831 fx: +44 151 794 3836**

LANGUAGE BOARD CHAIRMAN CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION ON EUROPEAN LANGUAGE CHARTER

Opening the above conference Lord Elis-Thomas, Chairman of the Welsh Language Board, exhorted those member states of the Council of Europe who have not yet done so to sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and acknowledge the reality of the linguistic diversity of Europe.

The Charter, which has now been open for signature since 1992 sets out objectives for signatory states in relation to encouraging and promoting minority languages.

Lord Elis-Thomas said "The State has a role to play in facilitating the use of minority languages, and within Europe the potential exists for a great deal of cooperation, for mutual support and for sharing lessons and experiences between those involved with minority languages. I am disappointed to see such a reluctance on the part of some governments to sign up to what is in effect a menu of measures designed to protect and safeguard minority languages". He added that Government action in Wales over the past 15 years demonstrated admirably a sound record of achievement which measured up to the Charter's objectives.

"The Charter recognises the diverse linguistic situations that exist within Europe. It provides for flexibility. Governments can, therefore, set achievable goals for individual languages within the framework of the Charter. A signature conveys the will to work realistically. I hope that Governments throughout Europe - including our own - will decide to sign the Charter at the earliest opportunity"

Fryske Folkshegeskoalle Schylgeralân

The **Fryske Folkshegeskoalle Schylgeralân** is a residential centre for the cultural education of adults and young people. Modelled on the Scandinavian tradition of 'Folkshighscholes', it aims towards a balance between personal development and socialising with others by offering in its courses/activities a type of education which, in general, is not provided by regular schools.

The centre intends to be the initiator of renewal projects that concern Frisian culture and language, acting at the very least as a birthplace for new ideas. It also organises courses and activities in the areas of painting, photography, music and nature.

At a time when European culture is being discussed more, the Folkshegeskoalle raises questions about the position of its citizens and the values they should keep or lose in building the new 'European house', in which several cultures, large and small, will have to live together. At a time when the predominant view is materialistic, the Folkshegeskoalle initiates debate about the possibilities of the individual as a means of combating the spiritual poverty which influences this cultural tendency. It also seeks ways to eliminate the feeling of powerlessness by going a little further than debate at a time when one is becoming increasingly aware of the environment, the conservation of nature and the urgency of joint and common action.

The centre is located off the Netherlands coast on the island of Skylge/Terschelling, one of the Frisian islands north of the province of Friesland. The island which is rich in nature has long beaches, dunes and woods along the North Sea coast, and meadows and farms in the south and centre. Large numbers of migratory birds shelter on the island each year.

The Folkshegeskoalle is situated in woods and dunes in the middle of the island, about 15km from its western and eastern shores, about 2km from the North Sea beach and the Wadden Sea, and at a 5-minute walking distance from the village of Hoorn. The complex lies only a short distance from the nature reserve called 'Bosplaat', recognised by the Council of Europe.

The school offers two types of boarding facilities: one consists of 4 large rooms for about 20 persons each and 2 rooms for group leaders, along with a meeting/recreation room with fire-place and piano. The most recent building has 11 rooms for two persons with shower. A foyer serves as a gathering place for informal moments. Upstairs is a conference room also suitable for creative sessions. In fair weather, courses may be conducted outdoors on the terrace.

Stays at the Folkshegeskoalle are on the basis of full board, including coffee and tea three times a day. Further information from: **Jantsje Sikma, Badwei 71, 8896 JB Hoarne, Skylge, The Netherlands, +31.56244.8954.**

New Publications

Que sais-je/ L'Ethnologie - Roland Breton: published by Presses Universitaires de France, 128 pages, ISBN: 2 13 047060 2. A detailed study of ethnopolitics where the author attempts to explain the foundation of states and countries and how they lead to what he describes as 'objective ethnic identity and subjective identification'. In a post 1989 Europe where ethnic/nation and nationality/citizenship are being redefined the author traces back in history the reasons why such phenomenon come about and dedicates a whole chapter to the negative consequences of ethnopolitics such as genocide and linguistics.

Agora, Enterprise Information Exchange for European Lesser Used Languages Communities, Contact file. Published by Menter a Busnes, Science Park, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AH, WALES. The decision to publish a file of loose pages on business/economic contacts throughout lesser used language regions was taken to encourage more Welsh speakers to enter into the world of business. *Menter a Busnes* works with these speakers to help them achieve their full economic potential by increasing their awareness of business and the economy around them. Menter a Busnes has since developed links with other lesser used language organisations which share this same interest and it held a small conference with them to discuss the development of ideas for interaction and partnerships. This 'contact file' is a listing of organisations and contacts throughout the EU's lesser used language regions with special interests in this field. Each section also contains a short description of the language in question and its current state.

Lingua Inicial e Compentencia lingüistica en Galicia: published by Real Academia Galega. A detailed 200 page study complete with graphs, tables and maps on linguistic competence in Galician. The first chapters explain in detail how the information was obtained and copies of the questionnaires are included. Oral and written competence in the language as well as the various sectors and domains where the language is found are described in detail and analysed at the end of each chapter. ISBN:84-87987-03-6.

Na Teangacha Neamhfhorleathna agus Oiliuint Mhuinteoiri: Ag Diriu ar an nGne Eorpach/ The Lesser Used Languages and Teacher Education: **Towards the Promotion of the European Dimension**-editors: Eilís Ní Dheá, Máire Ní Neachtain, Antóin Ó Dubhghaill: Published by Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál/Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland. ISBN: 1 900146 00 2. This publications contains the text of 15 papers given at the conference on **Lesser Used Languages and Teacher Education** held in Limerick, Ireland in July 1994. The first chapter contains the text of the key-note address given by Ms Helen Ó Murchú, President of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages and the following chapters are each dedicated to the following languages: Irish (in the Republic), Irish in N. Ireland, Gáidhlig, Manx, Welsh, Breton, Cornish, Catalan, Basque, Frisian, Friulan and Maltese. The final three chapters deal with Europe, Citizenship 2000 and the Mercator Education Network.

Les Aventures des langues en Occident, Leur origine, leur histoire, leur gegraphie - Henriette Walter 498 pages published by Robert Lafont, Paris ISBN 2-221-05918-2. A detailed study of the history of language and the resemblances and differences between western European languages today. The beginning of the book explains how Western Europe became a unit of vast linguistic diversity. Accepting that language borders seldom reflect political borders this book takes us through the origin of Western Europe's languages and their present day situations.

Proposta de Convençao Ortografica Mirandese - Câmara Municipal de Miranda do Douro, Miranda de Douro, Portugal 44 pages. Mirandese, a minority language spoken by circa 12, 000 people in the northeast of Portugal has no unified written form but recently a team of linguists have come together to set out a grammar and standardised written norm for the language. This book is the first result of their deliberations. It proposes standardised spelling for the language in addition to a detailed grammar. Editors note: (*Mirandese is a romance language which began to develop in the 12th century and is spoken today in the villages in and around the municipality of Miranda de Douro in the extreme northeast of Portugal. The total population of the region is 14,728 (1991) of which there are 10,000 speakers of the language which although its origins are unknown is believed to have developed from the Asturian-Leon subgroup of Romance languages. Efforts are made to promote the language by encouraging the teaching of it during the second half of primary schooling and the first cycle of secondary schooling. The local authorities in the region promote the language through publications in it and special linguistic studies. They also organise a song festival in addition to providing funding for theatre productions in the language. At times it is used during official occasions.* Further information available from: Centro de Linguística da Universidade de Lisboa, Avenida 5 de Outubro 85 -5o e 6o, P-1000 Lisboa, Portugal.)

Youth of European Nationalities: published by Klub slovenskih študentk in študentov na Dunaju (KSŠŠD), 302 pages, Price 250 ATS. Intended as a handbook for members of the Youth for European Nationalities this book contains general information in English, German, Slovene and French on the present-day situations of 16 lesser used language communities. They are each described under the headings of history, political situation, culture, education, media, economics, sport, finances and youth organisations in addition to small maps indicating where the languages of these communities are spoken. **Copies can be ordered directly from KSŠŠD, Mondscheingasse 11, Postfach 279, A-1071 Wien/Dunaj, Austria.**

Roma, Gypsies, Travellers - J.P. Liégeois, published by Council of Europe Press, Price 60 FF ISBN 92 871 2349 7 (English version) 92 871 2348 9 (French version). A description of the culture and lifestyle of this 8 million strong community spread out all over Europe divided into two distinct sections: socio-cultural and socio-political data. The publication is aimed mainly at teachers, teacher trainers, group leaders. i.e. those involved in the formulation and implementation of policies at local, regional, and national level. Copies can be purchased directly from the **Council of Europe, Finance Division, F-67075 Strasbourg, France.**

Euskararen Jarraipena-La Continuidad del Euskera-La Continuite de la Langue basque: 308 pages, published by the Basque Government's Central Publications' Service, Wellington Dukea 2, E-01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz, ISBN 84-457-0593-8: This trilingual publication (French, Basque and Spanish) is a sociolinguistic analysis of the present situation of the Basque language in the Autonomous Basque Community, Navarre and the North Basque Country (F). The information contained in the form of statistics, graphs and tables is the result of surveys carried out in the three Basque-speaking areas mentioned above and in which over five thousand people took part.

La Nouvelle Europe de Charlemagne Le Pari du XXI Siecle - Marc Rousset, Published by Economica, 98FF 345 pages. Having returned from the United States the author presents here the threat to Europe from the Anglo-American culture. For France in particular 'Charlemagne's Europe' is the way forward. In his view the fight for Europe is the fight for the French language. In a world of business and commerce French is slowly losing to English and the only way to stop this would be to make it Europe's official language. The enlargement of Europe will lead to its dilution by Anglo-american culture. In brief this book is a social study on the disarray of western society, causes of and cures for the rise in unemployment. He makes an argument for French as guardian of multilingualism in Europe and needless to say no reference is made to the enormous threat posed by French to the eight regional languages of that country!

Národnostní menšiny v Evropě

Národnostni Menšiny v Evrope: leo atava (Minority Ethnic Groups in Europe) 385 pages, ISBN 80-7116-375-9. A general description in alphabetical order of minority languages throughout 41 European states. The languages treated are divided into four different categories and are arranged according to the state units. An extensive bibliography is also included.

Free...To Have To leave/Libers...di scuigni là Liberi...di dover partire: Leonardo Zanier, 141 pages. Published by Istitût di Culture Furlane, Udine, Italy. A collection of Zanier's poems presented in their original Friulan (as spoken in the Alpine valley of Carnia) with English translation provided by David Katan.

Frisian as First and Second Language: Sociolinguistic and Socio-psychological Aspects of the Acquisition of Frisian among Frisian and Dutch Primary School Children, Jehannes Ytsma, Fryske Akademy, Ljouwert, Netherlands 1995. A study which examines the extent to which Frisian-speaking children acquire the language as L1 in addition to the rate and success of the acquisition of Frisian as second language among Dutch speaking children. **208 pages, ISBN 90-6171-797-3.**

Olmis Diari/Diario published by the Commissione Scuola della Società Filologica Friulana, Via Main 18, I-33100. Schoolchild's diary in Italian and Friulan covering the school year from September to June and containing information for children relevant to the Friulan world.

Le Droit et les Minorites-Analyses et textes: Alain Fenet, G.Koubi, I. Schulte-Tenkhoff and T. Ansbach. 468 pages ISBN 2-8027-0986-0. Published by Etablissements Emile Bruylant, S.A., Brussels. A detailed study on minorities and international legislation. The second part of the publication contains the legal texts of legislations pertinent to minorities in Europe.

D. Breathnach

Flags of **Aspirant Peoples**

Now available after three and a half years of research and preparation, the chart, **Flags of Aspirant Peoples** is the second in a series of flag charts based on a unique theme. The large majority of these flags has never before been published in readily accessible form anywhere in the world. They are thus made available here for the first time.

These are the flags of the long forgotten or recently re-discovered nations, tribes and minorities; of ethnic, political and religious groups; of indigenous peoples, oppressed peoples and peoples newly emerged from oppression.

Because the principal symbol of a nation or country is its flag, each flag expresses in some way the distinctive attributes of the people who fly it. Thus landscape, mythology, flora and fauna, past history and future hopes are all variously encompassed on a piece of fluttering cloth.

The compilers of **Flags Of Aspirant Peoples**, Ralph Bartlett and John Edwards, are vexillologists of many years experience and both have written widely on various aspects of vexillology (the study of flags). Drawing on such diverse disciplines as history, politics, ethnography, sociology, psychology, art and semiotics, vexillology has become recognised as a distinct field of scholarly endeavour. In this chart every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in every detail of colour, design and shape. The 202 flags are grouped systematically in geographical regions, with a map included to aid in location. The captions provide the names of peoples and places and, where applicable, political groups or religious affiliations. The result is a chart that is informative, comprehensive, and of outstanding value, whether for broader political knowledge, educational purposes or general interest.

Flags of Aspirant Peoples is available at $20 retail. Its predecessor and complement, Flags of Non-Independent Peoples, which illustrates 82 completely different flags on the same theme, is available for $10 retail or, if purchased with Flags of Aspirant Peoples, 5 dollars retail.

In order to purchase Flags of Aspirant peoples and Flags of Non-Independant peoples charts, please write to:

VEXVENTURES, C/o Flag Society of Australia, PO Box 142, Market Street Post Office, Melbourne, Victoria 3000. Cheques should be made payable to Flag Society of Australia.

Livonian - an example of recent language revival

Livonian is the language spoken by a very small ethnic community in Northern and Northwestern Latvia, its revival is back in the 1920s during the formation of the First Republic of Latvia. *The Livonian Mother Tongue Society* was founded in 1920 and the following ten years proved to be the most active in the revival of their language. Books began to be published in Latvia, Estonia and Finland and the number of Livonians was given as 1,200 in the 1925 census. Most of these people were either fishermen or artisans. This number was reduced quite substantially however following the Soviet annexation of Latvia and in 1989 their number was 100. Today's figure somewhat exceeds this.

As a result of the mortal danger to this people, its culture and its language, active attempts have been made since 1991 to restore and preserve this ethnic group. The Latvian government made a decision to establish a protected cultural and historical 'territory', Livod Randa (Livonian Coast) and chose the town of Mazirbe as its capital. The Livod randa Administration immediately set out to restore the economic and environmental conditions to enable Livonian families scattered throughout the country to return to their region. New local infrastructures were established to facilitate such moves in addition to initiatives being taken to restore the language, culture and traditions of these people. The Latvian government provided the necessary financial means.

Some practical results of these latest initiatives include a summer camp in Mazirbe where approx. 70 children come together to learn Livonian in special language groups. In addition, several new publications are appearing in the language. The territory's administration and the newly restored *Livonian Cultural Society* are now the co-organisers of an annual international conference held in Mazirbe which has as its main themes the history, culture, economic demography and environmental problems of Livonia and its people. The latest conference which was organised to coincide with a local folk festival was attended by scientists and educationalists from Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, the Russian Federation and the Republics of Komi and Mari-El. It was officially opened by Egil Slevits, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Latvia. The conference proves to be a further practical step by the Latvian government, its people, and the international scientific community in assisting in the restoration and survival of this language. Perhaps other lesser used language communities can draw inspiration from these efforts.

Prof. M.V. Diachkov,
Institite for Ethnic Problems in Education,
Moscow, Russia.

Focus on **Saterfriesian**

The Saterland (Germany) is the smallest linguistic enclave in Europe. In this area in north-west Lower Saxony, which has about 10,000 inhabitants, the Saterfriesian language is spoken along with High German. Saterfriesian is the last remnant of Old East Friesian, which belongs to the west German branch of the Germanic language group.

In about 600 A.D. the original Westphalians occupied the Saterland. Many people were driven out by the storm tides on the coast of the North Sea. The Friesians migrated from the area of Dollart into the Saterland where the original Westphalian population gradually became an insignificant minority, so that with time Friesian law, the Friesian lifestyle and above all the Friesian language permeated the area. A Friesian land had come into being on the Sagter-Ems.

The fact that this language has managed to survive for so long can be ascribed to the isolated location and the secluded nature of the area. The Saterfriesian area was surrounded by a very large wet band of bogs which throughout many centuries was difficult for people to penetrate and separated them from the "outside world". The Saterland was connected to the inter-regional railway network for the first time in 1907, and in 1914 a roadway was built leading from Friesoythe in Munster through the Saterland to Detern in East Friesia.

However, the cultural self-confidence and pride of the Saterlanders also helped them to retain their language, while their East Friesian neighbours gave up the original North German language in favour of the Low and High German languages.

After 1945, the immigration of refugees from East Germany and the enormous improvement of the roadway connections to the outside, together with a much greater mobility of the people, lead to a great reduction in the distribution and use of the language and in the degree to which the people identify with it. Even within the Saterland region it is today a minority language which in a modern and international society is in great danger of extinction.

The Selter-Bund Association of Homelands is concerned with the continued existence and fostering the language. This Association is a member of the German Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, and strives for the recognition of the Saterfriesian language as a minority language in accordance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

In the Saterland today the preservation of this cultural heritage is being supported by various voluntary efforts in kindergartens, in schools and in adult education. Further efforts and imaginative forms of fostering of this minority language by those responsible for cultural affairs are necessary. However the most important condition for its survival is a greatly developed identification by the Saterlanders themselves with their language and with Friesian culture.

Theodor Griep

Famous **Celtic Collection** Goes Global

The **Salisbury Library**, the unrivalled collection of rare and current Welsh and Celtic documents at the University of Wales Cardiff, is to be made available on computer to libraries throughout Britain, and internationally.

The Salisbury Library holds more than 50,000 books, prints and manuscripts on the history, language and culture of Wales, with thousands more added each year. Some of the collection's published works date back to 1508, and include nearly 100 'unique' works, including a 1791 elegy on the death of William Williams Pantycelyn, Wales' greatest 18th century writer; an 1818 edition in Welsh of Colpepper's famous British Herbal; and a unique 1820 edition of the New Testament in Welsh.

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales has awarded £125,000 to the University of Wales Cardiff to enable the transfer of the Salisbury's catalogue details on to Libertas, the computerised library catalogue system which links a network of 50 academic libraries throughout Britain. Libertas is also connected to the Internet, thus making the Salisbury Library the largest Welsh and Celtic bibliographic database in the world.

"This is an outstanding research collection, and certainly will be the best Welsh and Celtic library internationally, outside of the National Library of Wales", said the custodian of the Salisbury Library, Peter Keelan. "Its computerised bibliography will make these rare and significant documents available to students, researchers and the amateur enthusiasts of Celtic and Welsh studies world-wide".

The University of Wales Cardiff has one of the most up-to-date libraries in Britain, using the latest technology to support teaching and research. It has a network of 10 libraries, occupying more than 12,000 square metres. It holds a stock of almost 1,000,000 books and 9,000 different journal titles on 30 km of shelves. It holds several specialist collections, in addition to the Salisbury Library, and it houses the European Documentation and Information Centre.

Further information: Peter Keelan, The Salisbury Library-am unrhyw ymholiadau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, University of Wales Cardiff Tel: 874000 ext. 5691.

Debra Evans, Public Relations Officer Tel: [+44 1222] 874499, fx: [+44 1222] 874457, Email: evansd2@cf.ac.uk

Call to set up a **Lexicographic Network** for **European Regional** & **Minority Languages**

Because of its small number of native speakers and above all their disadvantageous age structure Lower Sorbian, an autochthonous West Slavonic language spoken in Lower Lusatia in the South of the German "Land" of Brandenburg, belongs to one of the most endangered of regional languages in Europe. This language - with very few exceptions - has not been passed on within families for two or three generations, and since 1945 has in general only been learnt in school. Language teaching is of paramount importance in any effort towards language maintenance. One condition for optimal language teaching is the availability of teaching aids tailored to the specific situation of the language. In particular, these aids must include learner-oriented dictionaries, i.e. dictionaries containing not only traditional information but above all information on the syntax and collocational potential of lexical items.

In order to lay the foundations for such a learner-oriented dictionary of Lower Sorbian, the **Department of Lower Sorbian Studies** of the Sorbian Institute will in 1996 begin to set up a machine-readable text corpus as part of an extensive lexical data-bank of the Lower-Sorbian standard language.

As we assume that further similar projects on other European regional and minority languages are in or even beyond the planning stage, we intend to create a European lexicographic network for mutual information and consultation. We would like to request all institutions and parties interested in such a network to contact:

Dr. Gunter Spiess, Sorbisches Institut, Zweigestelle für niedersorbische Forschungen, August-Bebel-Straße 82, D-03046 Cottbus. Tel: + 49 355 793044 Fax: + 49 355 793797

Letters to the Editor

Occitan

Dear Sir/Madam,

Having read in the last edition, page 11, 'The Situation of Regional or Minority Languages in Europe' that France has not yet submitted any report on its nationalities I hereby wish to express my total indignation. I find it utterly scandalous that a country which claims to be the country of human and democratic rights never makes the case for the various communities of this state. This has been going on for a very long time now: let us remember Mitterand and his famous speech at Lorient, and Fabius who during an interview reaffirmed the position of French as the only language of the Republic. One wonders then what's in store for the languages of France.

France continues to be one of the rare centralised countries of Europe and this linguistic, cultural and economic dictatorship exercised by Paris is reflected in various domains of public life. The different languages spoken in France have not yet been saved - far from it. As long as power comes from the top only and decentralisation continues to suffer intentional(?) setbacks the situation can only get worse. Is there then no means at European level to oblige France to officially recognise the existence of different ethnic groups throughout its territory?

The languages of France are not, or hardly, represented in the media. On the other hand I read in the last number of Contact-Bulletin an article on Radio Pais which is supposed to be representing minority languages. I have had the opportunity of listening to this station during the Occitan hour and unfortunately did not hear a single word of Occitan. The different reports were all done in French! There is an enormous amount of work to be done and perhaps the time has now come for the different minorities of France to work together in exercising stronger pressure on the central authorities.

Thierry Jaubin,
Rotenbergstr. 30, D-66111, Saarbrücken, Germany

Scots

Dear Sir or Madam,

A campaign has begun to have a question on the Scots language in the next census. As a result, I have been given the opportunity to make a case for such a question to the official census body. I would very much appreciate it if you could provide me with information on language questions in other national censuses: what form do they take, what use is made of the results, what campaigning was needed to secure them?

It would also be helpful if you could publicise our efforts and encourage people and institutions to write letters of support to me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Catherine Macafee,
University of Aberdeen, Dept. of English,
King's College,
Aberdeen AB9 2UB,
Scotland

Low Saxon

Dear Colleagues

I am addressing you today with a question and a request regarding the Low Saxon language.

With great interest and pleasure have I been watching the activities of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages for over a year, and I am happy about its success in helping to publicise and protect Europe's "small" languages.

As a linguist and as a German residing abroad, I am furthermore delighted that the Bureau deals also with Germany's minority languages : Danish, Saterland Frisian, the North Frisian language varieties, Lower Sorbian and Upper Sorbian. However, it is a pity that the list is incomplete and that in all this time I have not been able to read anything about our Low Saxon language in the material published by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. How can this possibly be?

"Low Saxon" is the scientific name for the language that is mostly referred to as "Low German". The language is used throughout Northern Germany and also in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Southern Africa, Australia and the Americas. In many areas of Northern Germany Low Saxon displaced Frisian until high German largely displaced Low Saxon there as well.

Low Saxon is the direct descendant of Old Saxon and thus is rather closely related to English. Its medieval form, Middle Low Saxon [or "Middle Low German"] used to serve as the international lingua franca among the Hansa Trading League's member cities along the shores of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. Low Saxon is not a 'German dialect group", although for a long time this used to the official line in Germany and still remains a popular belief. It is a good deal farther removed from High German than Scots ['Lallans'] is from English, for example. Low Saxon belongs to the Low German language group and thus is much more closely related to Dutch than to High German, although the Modern Low Saxon language has received strong influences from High German and also a type of High German orthography. A High German speaker from the south can understand Low Saxon only if he/she learns it as a foreign language, while a Dutch speaker can understand it rather well without studying it.

For about the last three centuries, High German has been increasingly displacing Low German. Nowadays, only a small minority uses Low Saxon, mostly in rural areas. Until a few years ago, it used to have a considerable image problem as an inferior rural and working-class vernacular. Yet, many great literary works in Low Saxon have been written nevertheless. Although the language is popularly associated with down-home type literature and folksy plays, there are also serious works in Low German, even modern poetry. Recently, the image of Low Saxon has been polished up a little, and among certain people the language even has become 'chic'. [For how long?]. Yet, it has become the language of a small minority and is in urgent need of recognition and protection. In any case, our Low Saxon language must not be absent from the list of Europe's "small" languages, even if some people still believe it is a dialect group.

For this reason, I request that in future you and your colleagues stand up for the Low Saxon language and consider it in the publications of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

Yours sincerely,

Reinhard F. Hahn, SM-38, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-9950, USA
Email: rhahn@u.washington.edu

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We welcome your, letters, articles etc. Please send these to:

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THE EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES seeks to conserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Union, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland, and an AISBL in Belgium. It works in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the European Commission, the Irish Government, the government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the Germanophone Community in Belgium. Rent-free accomodation is provided for its Brussels Information Centre by the Francophone Community in Belgium

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DANS CE NUMÉRO

Carte électronique
Radio en langue basque
Conférence de la jeunesse
Le livonien
Le Frison Saterland
Courrier

Reconnaissance d'une **langue slave**

« Nous déclarons solennellement, qu'à partir de ce jour, notre langue, le **rusyn**, est une langue normalisée et codifiée...et est devenue la langue littéraire des Rusyns en Slovaquie.» C'est avec ces paroles que les représentants de la *Société de renaissance rusyn* proclamèrent, le 27 janvier 1995, l'existence d'une nouvelle langue slave. Cette langue est à l'usage des Rusyns qui, depuis 1991 ont été officiellement reconnus comme un peuple distinct doté de tous les droits constitutionnels accordés à toutes les minorités nationales en Slovaquie. Elle était l'aboutissement d'un renouveau culturel qui a commencé peu de temps après la révolution de 1989 et la chute du règne communiste en Europe centrale occidentale. L'étape initiale dans le processus de construction linguistique eut lieu en novembre 1992 au *Premier Congrès de la langue Rusyn* qui rassembla plus de cinquante écrivains, journalistes et universitaires rusyns en provenance de tous les pays où ils résident (Ukraine, Slovaquie, Pologne, Hongrie, Yougoslavie). Il est évident maintenant que *le Premier Congrès de la langue rusyn* de novembre 1992 fut après examen un succès.

Membres de l'équipe de rédaction chargée de la compilation du premier dictionnaire de langue bretonne.

Deux mois plus tard, en janvier 1993, fut établie *la Société de renaissance rusyn* à Prešov en Slovaquie. Au cours des deux années suivantes, le personnel réduit de l'institut sous la direction des assistants professeurs Vasyl' Jabur et Juri Pan'ko a rencontré régulièrement des écrivains et grammairiens rusyns d'autres pays afin de résoudre des problèmes linguistiques communs et a en même temps travaillé avec des écrivains et des journalistes à la création d'un rusyn standard spécifique à la Slovaquie.

Le résultat en fut la publication vers la fin de 1994 d'un *Livre de règles orthographiques*, d'un dictionnaire de terminologie linguistique rusyn-russe-ukrainien-slovaque-polonais et un dictionnaire orthographique de la langue rusyn. Ces trois ouvrages, de pair avec un *Manuel de lecture élémentaire* et un Manuel par un professeur de l'endroit, Jan Hryb, ont fourni la base d'une nouvelle forme codifiée. L'acte formel de codification du rusyn en Slovaquie comporte de nombreuses implications d'ordre pratique. Alors que la Société de renaissance rusyn, reçoit le soutien du ministère slovaque de la Culture depuis 1991, un usage plus étendu de la langue dans la vie publique a été bloqué par des bureaucrates du gouvernement qui ont avancé l'argument qu'il devrait y avoir une norme littéraire avant d'entreprendre d'autres sortes d'activités. Maintenant qu'a eu lieu cette codification formelle, la voie de la procédure est ouverte à la création d'un programme de radio en langue rusyn destiné à la Slovaquie orientale ainsi qu'à des cours de langue rusyn (deux heures par semaine pour commencer) qui devaient débuter en septembre 1995 dans dix écoles élémentaires ayant déjà demandé un programme de culture rusyn. Afin de préparer des professeurs à ce nouveau programme, le ministère de l'Éducation de Slovaquie a fourni des fonds pour la création d'un département (Katedra) de langue et de culture rusyn à la Faculté de pédagogie de l'Université Šafárik à Prešov. Le nouveau département universitaire, qui remplace l'Institut de langue et de culture rusyn de la Société de renaissance rusyn a été formellement mis en place en janvier 1995.

Ainsi, la célébration du 27 janvier 1995, qui annonçait la codification de la langue rusyn en Slovaquie, était à la fois l'aboutissement d'un processus démocratique qui commença avec la révolution de 1989 ainsi qu'une étape concrète importante ayant créé un médium permettant la diffusion étendue de la culture rusyn.

Paul Robert Magocsi, Université de Toronto

FL023310

En Bref

Geriadur Brezhoneg - Premier dictionnaire de langue bretonne. Après sept ans de dur labeur, la maison d'édition *An Here* vient enfin de publier le dictionnaire monolingue de langue bretonne tant attendu. Celui-ci s'adresse avant tout aux élèves des écoles en langue bretonne. Ce dictionnaire de 1 300 pages contient l'explication de 10 350 mots et termes en breton et s'accompagne d'illustrations. Pour tout renseignement complémentaire, s'adresser à: **An Here, 16 straed Jules Henriot Ker drezeg, F-29000 Kemper, Bretagne.**

WalesInternational Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences (Festival international de Théâtre pour jeune public du pays de Galles), 20 au 23 mars 1996, Aberystwgth, pays de Galles. Toutes les troupes du pays de Galles qui s'adressent à un jeune public seront représentées à ce festival qui aura pour titre AGOR DRYSAU-OPENING DOORS (Ouvrons des portes) et permettra à des promoteurs et metteurs en scène étrangers de voir de nouvelles œuvres. Les troupes de théâtre d'autres régions de langue moins répandue seront également in vitées à y participer. Pour de plus amples reseignements, s'adresser à: Jeremy Turner, Arad Goch, Stryd y Baddon, Aberystwgth, Dyfed, SY23 2NN, Galles

CySill 2.0+ est compatible avec de nombreux progiciels de traitement de texte, dont Microsoft Word pour Windows, WordPerfect, Amipro, Wordstar et bien-sûr Windows 95. Le progiciel comprend un manuel bilingue complet et un petit guide d'initiation qui présente quelques-unes des procédures de base. De plus, un fichier d'aide en ligne et un service d'assistance téléphonique spécialisé apportent un soutien supplémentaire à l'utilisateur. Le progiciel coûte 45 livres sterling et des licences sur site sont disponibles pour les organisations ayant plusieurs utilisateurs. Pour tout renseignement complémentaire, s'adresser à: **Press Office, Welsh Language Board. + 44 1222 224744.**

Le catalan au Luxembourg

Les habitants de la ville de Luxembourg s'intéressant au catalan ont maintenant la possibilité d'apprendre cette langue. *Le Centre Català de Luxembourg*, en coopération avec le *Departament de Cultura* du gouvernement catalan, propose des cours, du niveau débutant au niveau perfectionnement, chaque mardi soir à partir de 18h50 dans le bâtiment BAK du Centre européen, Kirchberg. Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser au **Centre Català de Luxembourg, 24 avenue Victor Hugo, L-1750 Luxembourg.**

Conférence sur les langues et leur image. Cette conférence aura lieu du 6 au 8 mars 1996 à Neuchâtel, en Suisse. Pour obtenir un exemplaire du programme ou tout autre renseignement, s'adresser à **l'Institut romand de recherches et de documentation pédagogiques, case postale 54, CH-2007 Neuchâtel, Suisse.**

Séminaire de Pâques de la jeunesse des nationalités européennes

Le prochain séminaire, qui se tiendra du 30 mars au 5 avril à Zuoz, en Suisse, aura pour sujet de discussion le tourisme et ses effets sur les minorités. Pour de plus amples renseignements, contacter: **YEN, c/o David Spinnler, Rütistr.2, CH-5400 Baden, Suisse. Tél: + 41 56 229982.**

La 2ème Conférence européenne sur les Programmes d'Immersion aura lieu du 25 au 28 septembre 1996 à l'Université de Barcelone (Section de Psychologie). Elle aura pour titre «Construire la diversité, développer la cohésion: recherche et pratique dans le domaine des programmes d'immersion» et son objectif principal sera de créer un contexte pour permettre l'échange de résultats émanant des recherches menées dans le domaine des programmes d'immersion et de ressources et procédés développés par les enseignants et les organisations éducatives. Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à: **European Institute of Immersion Training, Provença 324 1er, E-08037 Barcelone, Catalogne. Tél: + 34 3 458700, Télécopie: + 34 3 458708** (uniquement le mardi et le jeudi de 9 à 13 heures).

Conférence: «Ethnicité et Communauté linguistique: une Comparaison interdisciplinaire et méthodologique», 5-7 décembre 1996. Le but de cette conférence organisée par le Centre international pour le plurilinguisme de l'Université d'Udine (Italie) est d'examiner en profondeur la relation entre les concepts «groupes ethniques», «nation» etc. et les catégories linguistiques correspondantes afin de comprendre dans quelle mesure la communauté linguistique contribue à l'identification de soi-même d'un «vaste» groupe social et quelles contradictions peut engendrer une conception déterministe de la relation entre la langue et la communauté ethnique. Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à : **Roberto Gusmani. Tél: + 39 432 556460; Télécopie: 5565469; courrier électronique: CPL@CIP.UNIUD.IT.**

El Contact Bulletin está ahora disponible en castellano (incluida esta edición). Los lectores que deseen [illegible] solo tienen que escribir al editor a la dirección [illegible] página. DB

Carte électronique des langues moins répandues

Le comité danois du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues travaille depuis quelque temps déjà sur un projet de carte des langues moins répandues de l'Union européenne. Le comité a l'intention d'utiliser les nouvelles technologies et de produire une carte électronique au moyen de laquelle toute information requise concernant une minorité de U.E. peut être obtenue sur un disque CD-ROM.

Le projet en est actuellement à la phase initiale, c'est-à-dire qu'on étudie quelles compagnies pourraient entreprendre le travail de traitement des données et comment créer le système en principe.

Grâce à cette technologie, le matériel stocké est facilement accessible. Une simple grille de présentation guide l'utilisateur à travers le système dans lequel toutes sortes d'informations sur des aspects historiques, culturels, sociaux, politiques et linguistiques sont disponibles. Ce système aura pour énorme avantage de permettre d'actualiser l'information. Ceci signifie que toute nouvelle donnée, comme par exemple un changement de gouvernement, de nouveaux États membres etc., sera introduite en mémoire. De cette façon, la carte électronique reste valable en dépit de changements importants au sein de l'Europe.

La structure éducative du sytème est actuellement à l'étude. Le point de départ dans tous les cas est l'utilisateur, qu'il s'agisse d'un enfant de dix ans ou d'un adulte. Chaque utilisateur attend des réponses différentes aux questions que l'on peut poser au sujet des minorités et de leurs langues. Ce qui compte par dessus tout, c'est que l'information, sous quelle forme que ce soit, soit utilisée.

Jan Sternkopf

Conférence de la Jeunesse du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, Rome, 16-19 mars 1995

Cette année, la conférence de la jeunesse organisée par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues a eu lieu au mois de mars à Santa Severa, une station balnéaire près de Rome. Cette conférence a eu ceci d'historique qu'elle a permis à des jeunes appartenant à des communautés de langue moins répandue du nord et du sud de l'Italie de se rencontrer pour la première fois. Au cours de la première journée, les participants ont présenté les activités de la jeunesse des communautés de langue moins répandue en Italie et dans les autres pays d'Europe. Ceci a été suivi le lendemain par un séminaire ayant pour thème «l'organisation d'échanges pour la jeunesse».

La conférence a mis en évidence l'écart qui existe entre les structures pour la jeunesse dans le nord et dans le sud de l'Italie. Les représentants de la minorité slovène ont parlé des organisations de scouts, des organisations sportives et des chorales pour les jeunes. Astrid Höller, qui représentait Südtiroler Jugendring, l'organisation de coordination pour la jeunesse dans la communauté germanophone du Tyrol du Sud, a parlé du service de consultation destiné aux jeunes et de l'éventail des activités et des stages de formation qui sont offerts aux 12 000 jeunes qui sont membres de l'organisation. De telles organisations contrastaient vivement avec l'expérience de la communauté albanaise en Calabre. Luciano Tocci, un jeune membre de cette communauté a évoqué l'exode permanent des jeunes de cette communauté qui est dû principalement au chômage. En dépit de la division évidente qui existe entre la communauté albanaise et les communautés minoritaires voisines du sud de l'Italie d'un côté et les communautés minoritaires des régions frontalières de l'Italie du nord de l'autre, tous les jeunes qui ont participé à la conférence ont manifesté un véritable intérêt commun pour les activités destinées à la jeunesse. Depuis cette conférence de la jeunesse et avec l'aide de Peter Rustia, le représentant italien de la jeunesse du Bureau, la famille Tocci en Calabre est en train d'établir une organisation de la jeunesse albanaise.

La conférence nous a fourni une excellente tribune pour discuter de la diversité de nos expériences dans le domaine de la jeunesse mais nous a également donné l'occasion de mettre en commun nos ressources afin de nous unir dans un héritage européen commun. Les diverses pièces du puzzle européen ont été mises en place lors du rassemblement. Tous les participants ont souhaité la bienvenue aux nouveaux représentants de la jeunesse du Bureau autrichien et suédois. Marcello Jannarelli, le Secrétaire général de la Fédération européenne des unions de la jeunesse, nous a donné des informations de première main sur la Campagne européenne de la jeunesse contre le racisme, la xénophobie, l'antisémitisme et l'intolérance qui a récemment été lancée et est organisée par le Conseil de l'Europe. Pour une fois, il semble qu'on ait là une campagne de la jeunesse émanant d'institutions européennes qui soit particulièrement pertinente pour les communautés minoritaires périphériques et marginalisées. Enfin, M. Massimiliano Viatore, un animateur/formateur professionnel de l'association de la jeunesse italienne AFSAI (Associazione per la Formazione, gli Scambi e le Attività Interculturali), a dirigé un séminaire intensif sur les échanges pour la jeunesse.

Caoihme Ní Lochlainn

Carte linguistique de L'Europe sous forme de jeu

«Tidoc-Projecte» (un groupe de recherche pédagogique constitué par une équipe d'enseignants d'écoles catalanes) travaille à la création d'un jeu télématique s'adressant aux écoles mais susceptible d'intéresser tout le monde. Le jeu consiste en une base de données relative aux différentes langues parlées dans l'Union européenne. Le regroupement des données a pu se faire grâce à l'information fournie à «Tidoc-Projecte» par CIEMEN et l'assistance du *Comité confédéral du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues de l'Etat membre espagnol.*

Des données fondamentales sur la réalité des langues européennes peuvent être obtenues par n'importe quel ordinateur rattaché à un réseau particulier. Cette information permet un usage didactique à plusieurs niveaux et un échange par divers moyens, y compris un jeu de questions, entre les élèves de différentes écoles.

Les données linguistiques sont présentées graphiquement sur des écrans et peuvent être consultées au moyen de menus. Cette présentation a été choisie pour son attrait, sa simplicité et le peu d'espace mémoire qu'elle nécessite. Cette initiative vise principalement à sensibiliser les jeunes d'âge scolaire aux langues et cultures européennes, afin de les inciter à vouloir découvrir ce qu'est réellement l'Europe, ses différences et son pluralisme linguistique, éléments constitutifs de l'Union européenne.

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez vous adresser à «Tidoc-Projecte», Fundació H. Tudela, Avda. Tibidabo 16, E-08022 Barcelone; ou directement à CIEMEN, Pau Claris 106 1er 1a, E-08009 Barcelone.

Aureli Argemí

Liverpool renforce ses liens avec l'Europe

La ville de Liverpool a encore une fois confirmé qu'elle est engagée envers l'Europe et le savoir. Le vice-maire et conseiller Petrona Lashley a chaleureusement accueilli les visiteurs européens qui prenaient part à deux événements organisés par l'Institut d'études irlandaises à l'Université de Liverpool.

Le conseiller Lashley a applaudi Lord Elis-Thomas, le Président de la Commission à la langue galloise lors du lancement d'une nouvelle série passionnante : *Liverpool Studies in European Regional Cultures* (Études de Liverpool sur les cultures régionales européennes) publiée par la Liverpool University Press. Cette série est éditée par Dr Máiréad Nic Craith et Dr Ulli Kockel dans le cadre de leur travail à l'unité de Recherche de l'Institut de culture et de tourisme. Cette nouvelle série examine d'un œil neuf «l'Europe des régions» et la diversité et la similarité des cultures régionales en Europe ainsi que les manières qu'il y a de gérer les ressources culturelles afin d'encourager le développement socio-économique. Tout en louant la série, Lord Elis-Thomas félicitait les éditeurs pour avoir contribué «de manière originale et vivifiante à la compréhension européenne».

Cette nouvelle série a été lancée durant une Conférence internationale sur la politique et l'aménagement linguistique dans l'Union européenne, qui eut lieu ce week-end-là à l'Institut d'études irlandaises au 1, Abercromby Square, Liverpool 7. Cette conférence fut organisée en commun par l'Institut et l'ECTARC (European Centre for Traditional and Regional Cultures at Llangollen/Centre européen pour les cultures traditionnelles et régionales de Llangollen). Des experts linguistiques de différentes parties de l'Europe y assistèrent pour célébrer et protéger la riche diversité linguistique et culturelle de l'Europe. Lorsqu'il a accueilli les visiteurs à la ville de Liverpool, le vice-maire et conseiller Petrona Lashley a déclaré : «La tenue de ces deux événements (la conférence sur la planification et la politique linguistique en Europe et le lancement de la nouvelle série sur les cultures régionales européennes) montre une fois de plus pourquoi l'on appelle Liverpool la ville du savoir.»

La conférence a été positive et optimiste. C'est Lord Elis-Thomas qui en a exprimé la direction. Dans son discours important et vigoureux il a attaqué les «monolinguistes» de l'Angleterre et a établi le thème de la conférence - à savoir «que la diversité culturelle et linguistique de l'Europe fait partie intégrale de notre héritage européen». Cette observation positive et pratique fut reprise par d'autres locuteurs qui ont mis l'accent sur la valeur de la mercatique dans la planification linguistique et les opportunités économiques du développement linguistique.

En plus de l'analyse des langues galloise, irlandaise et gaélique écossaise, la conférence a discuté les langues manxoise et lallans, le bas-allemand, les langues moins répandues des Pays-Bas, la politique linguistique au sein des communautés catalane, valencienne et galicienne et des Îles baléares, de concert avec les langues non-autochtones du Royaume-Uni.

Pour plus de renseignements, contacter : **Dr Máiréad Nic Craith à l'Institut d'études irlandaises; téléphone : + 44 151 794 3831, télécopie : + 44 151 794 3836**

Fryske Follshegeskoalle Schylgeralân

La Fryske Follshegeskoalle Schylgeralân est un centre résidentiel destiné à la formation culturelle de jeunes gens et d'adultes. Créé d'après le modèle de la tradition scandinave des «folkhighscholes», son but est le développement de la personne dans un équilibre avec la socialisation en offrant dans ses cours et ses activités un type d'enseignement qui, en général, n'est pas disponible dans les écoles régulières.

Le centre a l'intention d'être à la base de projets de renouvellement concernant la culture et la langue frisonne et servant au minimum de base à de nouvelles idées. Le centre organise aussi des cours et des activités dans des domaines comme la peinture, la photographie, la musique et la nature.

À un moment où, tout autour de nous, apparait la culture européenne, la Follshegeskoalle soulève des questions sur la position qu'occupent les citoyens impliqués, les valeurs qu'ils devraient conserver et celles à abandonner sur le chemin de cette nouvelle «Maison européenne» dans laquelle devront cohabiter plusieurs cultures, certaines importantes, d'autres plus modestes.

À un moment où le matérialisme domine, la Follshegeskoalle engage un débat sur les possibilités de l'individu comme moyen de combattre cette pauvreté spirituelle et d'influencer cette tendance culturelle.

À un moment où une prise de conscience commune se dégage tout juste dans les domaines de l'environnement, de la conservation de la nature et de l'urgence à entreprendre une action conjointe, la Follshegeskoalle recherche des moyens d'éliminer cette sensation de se trouver sans défense en allant plus loin que le simple débat.

Le centre se situe aux Pays-Bas sur Skylge/Terschelling, l'une des îles frisonnes du nord de la province de Frise. L'île dispose d'une nature riche : de longues plages, des dunes et des bois le long de la côte septentrionale, des prairies et des fermes dans le sud et le centre de l'île parmi onze villages. Des populations importantes d'oiseaux migrateurs s'y réfugient chaque année.

La Follshegeskoalle se trouve au sein de bois et de dunes au centre de l'île à environ 15 km des côtes est et ouest et à cinq minutes de marche des bâtiments du village de Hoorn. Le complexe est près de la réserve naturelle, Bosplaat, reconnue par le Conseil de l'Europe.

La Follshegeskoalle offre deux sortes d'hébergement : l'un consistant de quatre dortoirs spacieux pouvant accueillir 20 personnes chacun et deux chambres pour les chefs de groupes ainsi qu'une pièce de réunion et de détente pourvue d'une cheminée et d'un piano. Le bâtiment le plus récent est doté de onze chambres doubles avec douche. Un hall sert de lieu de réunion pour des moments informels. À l'étage supérieur se trouve une salle de conférence et de réunion bien adaptée à des sessions créatives. Par beau temps, il est possible de tenir des cours à l'extérieur, sur la terrasse.

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Les sejours à la Follshegeskoalle sont sur la base d'une pension complète comprenant aussi le café et le thé trois fois par jour.

Pour plus de renseignements, contacter : Jantsje Sikma, Badwei 71, 8896 JB Hoarne, Skylge, Pays-Bas. Téléphone : + 31 5620 8954, + 31 562 44 8954 (a partir d'octobre 95).

Sentence contre une **Radio en langue basque**

Euskalerria Irratia est la seule radio basque existant dans la capitale de Navarre, Pampelune-Iruñea Perdus dans une société espagnoliste (sur 250.000 habitants, 35.000 parlent le basque) nous œuvrons depuis dix ans à la mise en place d'une radio qui doit être le point de rencontre nécessaire à la survie de notre langue. L'émission quotidienne d'une durée de dix heures a été obtenue petit à petit grâce à nos efforts et notre argent. Malheureusement nous n'avons pas encore obtenu le statut de radio légale.

En 1990 eut lieu un appel d'offre pour l'attribution des fréquences FM et nous présentâmes notre demande et notre programme. Les éléments qui seraient pris comme critères de choix nous avaient paru de nature à nous rendre confiants: "Seront principalement prises en compte les radios qui s'engageront à diffuser des programmes relatifs à l'histoire de la Navarre, sa culture, et mettront la langue en valeur".

Au moment de prendre la décision, ce furent deux radios de l'Etat espagnol qui obtinrent l'autorisation. L'une d'elles n'a jamais émis, car elle vendit la sienne à une autre radio avant de commencer à fonctionner.

Demandant que justice fut faite, nous avons porté l'affaire au tribunal. Une réponse négative nous fut donnée en novembre 1994. Nous savions qu'il serait très difficile de modifier la décision d'un gouvernement, mais nous ne pensions pas que les arguments développés par le juge présenteraient un tel caractère de violence contre le basque.

Si l'on tient compte que 15 radios émettent en espagnol à Pampelune et que Euskalerria Irratia était seule à solliciter un statut légal de radio basque, les propos tenus par le juge M. Merino méritent d'être consignés dans le livre noir des langues minoritaires: « Euskalleria Irratia, étant donné le caractère limité et monolithique de ses orientations, s'éloigne de la dimension de la culture générale. En effet une programmation faite uniquement en langue basque irait contre le développement de la culture générale. La culture est le fruit du cosmopolitisme. Il n'y a pas en ville de Basque de naissance.»

Contre ces inexactitudes tendancieuses, nous avons fait appel à nouveau auprès de la cour suprême. En effet nous estimons qu'un discours de cette nature impérialiste et archaïque va contre la personnalité, la liberté et la culture d'un peuple et nie les droits de ce dernier.

Qu'il en soit ainsi. Mais estimant que le fait de dévoiler les fautes graves, c'est déjà les réparer en partie, nous voulons dénoncer les arguments sans fondement portés dans la sentence.

Eugenio Arraiza, Iruñeko Komunikabideak, S.A.,
Euskalleria Irratia,
Antso Azkarra, 96,13°, E-31011 Iruñea-Pamplona

La Commission à la langue galloise demande au gouvernement d'agir au sujet de la Charte européenne des langues

Lors de l'ouverture de la Conférence internationale sur la politique et l'aménagement linguistique au sein de l'Union européenne qui était organisée par l'Institut d'études irlandaises à l'Université de Liverpool, Lord Elis-Thomas, Président de la Commission à la langue galloise, a pressé les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe, ne l'ayant pas encore fait, de signer la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales et minoritaires et de reconnaître la réalité de la diversité linguistique de l'Europe.

La Charte, qui a été ouverte aux signatures depuis 1992, établit des objectifs pour les États signataires en relation avec l'encouragement et la promotion des langues minoritaires. À la fin de 1994, seulement 13 États avaient signé la Charte — et le gouvernement du R.-U. n'était pas l'un des signataires.

Il a déclaré :«l'État a un rôle à jouer lorsqu'il s'agit de faciliter l'usage des langues minoritaires, et il existe au sein de l'Europe un potentiel pour énormément de coopération, de soutien mutuel et de partage de leçons et d'expérience entre ceux impliqués dans les langues minoritaires. Je suis déçu de constater qu'il y ait tant d'hésitation de la part de certains gouvernements à signer ce qui constitue en fait un menu de mesures destinées à protéger et à sauvegarder des langues minoritaires.» Il a ajouté que l'action gouvernementale au pays de Galles au cours de ces quinze dernières années a mis en évidence de manière admirable un bilan sain de ce qui a été accompli et qui est à la hauteur des objectifs de la Charte.

«La Charte reconnaît les diverses situations linguistiques que l'on retrouve en Europe. Elle accorde de la flexibilité. Les gouvernements peuvent, par conséquent, établir des buts réalisables pour des langues individuelles dans le cadre de la Charte. Une signature transmet la volonté de travailler de façon réaliste. J'espère que les gouvernements à travers toute l'Europe — dont le nôtre —, décideront de signer cette Charte à la première opportunité», a-t-il déclaré.

Nouvelles Publications

Que sais-je/L'Ethnopolitique - Roland Breton. Publié par Presses Universitaires de France, 128 pages, ISBN 2-13-047060-2. Une etude détaillée de l'ethnopolitique dans laquelle l'auteur s'efforce d'expliquer les fondements des États et pays et comment ils conduisent à ce qu'il appelle l' «identité ethnique objective et l'identification subjective». Dans l'Europe d'après 1989 où on est en train de redéfinir les termes ethnie/nation et nationalité/citoyenneté, l'auteur remonte dans l'histoire pour découvrir les raisons pour lesquelles de tels phénomènes se produisent et consacre tout un chapitre aux conséquences négatives de l'ethnopolitique telles que le génocide et la destruction d'une langue.

Agoca, Enterprise Information Exchange for European Lesser Used Languages Communities. Contact file. Publié par Menter a Busnes, Science Park, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AH, PAYS DE GALLES. La décision de publier un fichier de feuilles volantes sur les contacts relatifs au milieu des affaires et de l'économie à travers les régions de langue moins répandue a été prise afin d'encou-rager davantage de locuteurs de gallois à entrer dans le monde des affaires. *Menter a Busnes* aide ces locuteurs à réaliser leur plein potentiel économique en les sensibilisant plus au monde des affaires et de l'économie qui les entoure. *Menter a Busnes* a développé des liens avec d'autres organisations de langue moins répandue qui partagent cet intérêt et a tenu une petite conférence avec elles pour voir comment développer des idées d'interaction et de partenariat. Ce «Contact file» (fichier de contact) est une liste d'organisations et de contacts à travers les régions de langue moins répandue de l'Union européenne qui s'intéressent spécialement à ce domaine. Chaque section contient également une petite description de la langue en question et son état actuel.

Na Teangacha Neamhfhorleathna agus Oiliuint Mhuinteoirí: Ag Diriú ar an nGné Eorpach/The Lesser Used Languages and Teacher Education: Towards the Promotion of the European Dimension. Responsables de la publication: Eilis Ní Dheá, Máire Ní Neachtain, Antóin Ó Dubhghaill. Publié par **Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál/Mary Immaculate College**, Limerick, Irlande. ISBN 1-900146-00-2. Cette publication contient le texte des 15 communications faites lors de la conférence sur les langues moins répandues et la formation des enseignants qui s'est tenue à Limerick, en Irlande, au mois de juillet 1994. Le premier chapitre contient le texte du discours d'ouverture prononcé par Mme Helen O Murchú, Présidente du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues et les chapitres qui suivent sont consacrés aux langues suivantes: irlandais (dans la République), irlandais (en Irlande du Nord), gaélique, manx, gallois, breton, cornique, catalan, basque, frison, frioulan et maltais. Les trois derniers chapitres traitent de l'Europe, de Citoyenneté 2000 et du Réseau Mercator-Éducation.

Národnostní
menšiny
v Evropě

Narodnostni Mensiny v Evropě: Leoš Šatava (Groupes ethniques minoritaires en Europe). 385 pages - ISBN 80-7116-375-9. Une description générale par ordre alphabétique des langues minoritaires dans 41 États européens. Les langues traitées sont divisées en quatre catégories différentes et sont classées selon les États. L'ouvrage comporte également une bibliographie considérable.

Proposta de Convençao Ortografica Mirandese - Câmara Municipal de Miranda do Douro, Miranda de Douro, Portugal, 44 pages. Le mirandais, une langue minoritaire parlée par quelque 12 000 personnes dans le nord-est du Portugal, n'a pas de forme écrite unifiée mais une équipe de linguistes s'est récemment rassemblée pour présenter une grammaire et une norme écrite standardisée de la langue. Ce livre est le premier résultat de leurs délibérations. Il propose une orthographe standardisée pour la langue ainsi qu'une grammaire détaillée.

Note du rédacteur-en-chef: (*Le mirandais est une langue romane dont le développement a commencé au XII^{e} siècle et qui est parlée aujourd'hui dans la municipalité de Miranda de Douro et les villages alentour à l'extrême nord-est du Portugal. La population de la région s'élève à 14 728 habitants (1991) dont 10 000 parlent le mirandais. Bien que l'on ignore les origines de la langue, on pense qu'elle s'est développée à partir du sous-groupe asturien-león des langues romanes. Des efforts sont faits pour promouvoir la langue en encourageant son enseignement au cours de la deuxième moitié du cycle scolaire primaire et du premier cycle de l'enseignement secondaire. Les autorités locales de la région font la promotion du mirandais par le biais de publications dans la langue et d'études linguistiques spéciales. De plus, elles organisent un festival de la chanson et fournissent des fonds aux productions théâtrales dans la langue. De temps en temps, le mirandais est employé dans des occasions officielles.)* Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à: Centro de Linguistica da Universidade de Lisboa, Avenida 5 de Outubro 85 - 5o e 6o, P-1000 Lisboa, Portugal.)

Les Aventures des langues en Occident, leur origine, leur histoire, leur géographie - Henriette Walter. 498 pages. Publié par Robert Lafont, Paris. ISBN 2-221-05918-2. Une étude détaillée de l'histoire du langage et des ressemblances et différences entre les langues européennes occidentales aujourd'hui. Le début du livre explique comment l'Europe occidentale est devenue un ensemble d'une vaste diversité linguistique. Reconnaissant que les frontières linguistiques reflètent rarement les frontières politiques, ce livre nous présente les origines des langues de l'Europe occidentale et leur situation actuelle.

Jeunesse des nationalités européennes. Publié par Klub slovenskih študentk in študentov na Dunaju (KSŠŠD) - 302 pages - Prix: 250 SCH. Manuel destiné aux membres de la Jeunesse des nationalités européennes, cet ouvrage contient des informations générales en anglais, en allemand, en slovène et en français sur la situation actuelle de seize communautés de langue moins répandue. Chacune est décrite sous les rubriques suivantes: histoire, situation politique, culture, éducation, médias, économie, sport, finances et organisations de la jeunesse. Le manuel comporte également des petites cartes indiquant les régions où les langues de ces communautés sont parlées. Pour en commander des exemplaires, s'adresser directement à: **KSŠŠD**, Mondscheingasse 11, Postfach 279, A-1071 Wien/Dunaj, Autriche.

Roma, Gypsies, Travellers - J.P. Liégeois. Publié par Presses du Conseil de l'Europe, Prix: 60FF - ISBN 92-871-2349-7 (version anglaise) 92 871 2348 9 (version française). Une description de la culture et du style de vie de cette communauté de 8 millions d'individus éparpillés à travers toute l'Europe. L'ouvrage, qui est divisé en deux sections distinctes - données socioculturelles et données sociopolitiques -, s'adresse avant tout aux enseignants, aux responsables de la formation des enseignants, aux responsables de groupes c'est à dire aux personnes qui participent à la formulation et à la mise en oeuvre de politiques aux niveaux local, régional et national. Cette publication est en vente au **Conseil de l'Europe, Division des Finances, F-67075 Strasbourg, France.**

Lingua Inicial e Compentencia lingüística en Galicia. Publié par Real Academia Galega. Une étude détaillée de 200 pages, accompagnée de graphiques, de tableaux et de cartes, sur la compétence linguistique en galicien. Les premiers chapitres expliquent en détail comment l'information a été obtenue et des exemplaires des questionnaires sont inclus. La compétence dans la langue orale et écrite ainsi que les divers secteurs et domaines où l'on rencontre la langue sont décrits de manière détaillée et analysés à la fin de chaque chapitre. ISBN 84-87987-03-6.

Euskararen Jarraipena-La Continuidad del Euskera / La continuité de la Langue basque. 308 pages - publié par le Service central des publications du gouvernement basque, Wellington Dukea 2, E-01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz, ISBN 84-457-0593-8. Cette publication trilingue (français, basque et espagnol) est une analyse sociolinguistique de la situation actuelle de la langue basque dans la Communauté basque autonome, en Navarre et dans le Pays basque nord (F). L'information qui s'y trouve, sous forme de statistiques, de graphiques et de tableaux, est le résultat d'enquêtes menées dans les trois régions de langue basque susmentionnées et auxquelles plus de 5 000 personnes ont participé.

La Nouvelle Europe de Charlemagne. Le Pari du XXI Siècle. - Marc Rousset. Publié par Economica, 98FF, 345 pages. De retour des Etats-Unis, l'auteur présente ici la menace que représente la culture anglo-américaine pour l'Europe. Pour la France notamment, «l'Europe de Charlemagne» est la voie à suivre. Selon lui, la lutte pour l'Europe est la lutte pour la langue française. Dans un monde d'affaires et de commerce, le français perd peu à peu du terrain par rapport à l'anglais et la seule façon d'enrayer ce phénomène serait de faire du français la langue officielle de l'Europe. L'élargissement de l'Europe va entraîner sa dilution par la culture anglo-américaine. En bref, ce livre est une étude sociale sur le désarroi de la société occidentale, les causes de la montée du chômage et ses remèdes. L'auteur plaide en faveur du français en tant que défenseur du plurilinguisme en Europe et il va sans dire qu'il ne fait aucune référence à l'énorme menace que représente le français pour les huit langues régionales de ce pays!

Free...To Have To Leave / Libers...di scuigni là Liberi...di dover partire. Leonardo Zanier, 141 pages. Publié par **Istitût** di Culture Furlane, Udine, Italie. Un recueil des poèmes de L. Zanier présentés dans leur langue frioulane d'origine (telle qu'elle est parlée dans la vallée alpine de Carnia) et accompagnés d'une traduction en anglais de David Katan.

Olmis Diari/Diario. Publié par la Commissione Scuola della Società Filologica Friulana, Via Manin 18, I-33100. Ce journal d'un élève en italien et en frioulan couvre l'année scolaire du mois de septembre au mois de juin et contient des informations touchant au monde frioulan destinées aux enfants.

Frisian as First and Second Language: Sociolinguistic and Sociopsychological Aspects of the Acquisition of Frisian among Frisian and Dutch Primary School Children. Jehannes Ytsma, Fryske Akademy, Ljouwert, Pays-Bas 1995. Une étude qui examine jusqu'à quel point les enfants locuteurs de frison acquièrent la langue comme première langue et considère le taux et la réussite d'acquisition du frioulan en tant que seconde langue parmi les enfants néerlandophones. 208 pages, ISBN 90-6171-797-3.

Le Droit et les Minorités-Analyses et textes. Alain Fenet, G. Koubi, I. Schulte-Tenkhoff et T. Ansbach. 468 pages. ISBN 2-8027-0986-0. Publié par Etablissements Emile Bruylant, S.A., Bruxelles. Une étude détaillée sur les minorités et le droit international. La deuxième partie de l'ouvrage contient les textes législatifs se rapportant aux minorités en Europe.

D. Breathnach

DRAPEAUX DES **PEUPLES SANS ÉTAT**

Désormais disponible après trois ans de recherche et de préparation, le tableau **Drapeaux des peuples sans État** est le deuxième d'une série de tableaux de drapeaux basée sur un thème unique: les drapeaux des peuples. La vaste majorité de ces drapeaux n'avaient encore jamais été publiés sous une forme accessible à tout un chacun où que ce soit dans le monde. Ils sont donc maintenant disponibles pour la première fois.

Ce sont les drapeaux de peuples oubliés depuis longtemps ou récemment redécouverts, de nations, tribus et minorités, de groupes ethniques, politiques ou religieux, de peuples indigènes, de peuples opprimés et de peuples récemment sortis de l'oppression. Le drapeau étant l'emblème principal d'une nation ou d'un pays, chaque drapeau exprime d'une certaine façon les attributs distinctifs du peuple qu'il représente. C'est ainsi que le paysage, la mythologie, la flore et la faune, l'histoire et les espoirs sont tous renfermés de diverses manières sur un morceau de toile flottante.

Les compilateurs du tableau **Drapeaux des peuples**, Ralph Bartlett et John Edwards, sont des experts en vexillologie ayant des années d'expérience derrière eux et ont tous deux beaucoup écrit sur divers aspects de la vexillologie (l'étude des drapeaux). Faisant appel à diverses disciplines telles que l'histoire, la politique, l'ethnographie, la sociologie, la psychologie, l'art et la sémiotique (les signes et les symboles et leur relation avec la signification), la vexillologie est désormais reconnue en tant que champ de recherches scientifiques à part entière. Tous les efforts ont été faits pour garantir que chaque détail de couleur, de conception et de forme dans ce tableau est exact. Les 202 drapeaux sont systématiquement groupés par régions géographiques et accompagnés d'une carte qui facilite leur localisation. Les légendes indiquent les noms des peuples et des lieux et, lorsque c'est approprié, les groupes politiques ou les affiliations religieuses. Il en résulte un tableau instructif, complet et très enrichissant, qu'on l'utilise à des fins éducatives, pour élargir ses connaissances politiques ou simplement par intérêt général.

Le tableau **Drapeaux des peuples sans État** est en vente au prix de détail de $20. L'ouvrage qui le précède et le complète, Drapeaux des peuples non-indépendants, qui illustre 82 drapeaux complètement différents sur le même thème, est disponible au prix de détail de $10 ou lorsqu'il est acheté avec Drapeaux des peuples sans État, de $5.

Pour acheter ces tableaux, veuillez écrire à: VEXVENTURES, C/O Flag Society of Australia, PO Box 142, Market Street Post Office, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australie. Les chèques doivent être libellés à l'ordre de: Flag Society of Australia.

Le livonien, un exemple de réveil linguistique récent

Le réveil linguistique du livonien, la langue parlée par une toute petite communauté ethnique dans le nord et le nord-ouest de la Lettonie, commença dans les années 1920 lors de la formation de la première république de Lettonie. *La Société du livonien, langue maternelle* fut fondée en 1920 et les dix années suivantes s'avérèrent les plus actives en ce qui concerne le réveil de la langue. On commença à publier des livres en Lettonie, en Estonie et en Finlande. Le recensement de 1925 comptait 1 200 Lettoniens, pour la plupart pêcheurs ou artisans. Ce nombre fut toutefois considérablement réduit à la suite de l'annexion de la Lettonie par l'Union soviétique et en 1989 ils n'étaient plus que 100. Aujourd'hui, ils sont un peu plus nombreux.

Devant la menace d'extinction qui pèse sur ce peuple, sa culture et sa langue, des efforts réels ont été faits depuis 1991 pour restaurer et conserver ce groupe ethnique. Le gouvernement lettonien a adopté la décision d'établir un «territoire» culturel et historique protégé, Livod randa (Rivage livonien) et a choisi Mazirbe pour sa capitale. L'administration de Livod randa a aussitôt entrepris de restaurer les conditions économiques et d'environnement pouvant permettre aux familles livoniennes éparpillées dans tout le pays de revenir dans leur région. De nouvelles infrastructures locales ont été créées afin de faciliter cela et des initiatives ont été prises pour restaurer la langue, la culture et les traditions de ce peuple. Le gouvernement lettonien a fourni les moyens financiers nécessaires.

Sur le plan pratique, ces dernières initiatives ont abouti à une colonie de vacances à Mazirbe où quelque 70 enfants sont rassemblés par groupes pour apprendre le livonien. De plus, plusieurs nouvelles publications dans la langue ont vu le jour. L'administration du territoire et la Société culturelle livonienne nouvellement reconstituée organisent conjointement une conférence internationale annuelle qui a lieu à Mazirbe et a pour thèmes principaux l'histoire, la culture, la démographie économique et les problèmes concernant l'environnement de la Livonie et son peuple. Des scientifiques et des pédagogues de Lettonie, d'Estonie, de Finlande, de Suède, de la Fédération russe et des républiques de Komi et Mari-El ont participé à la dernière conférence qui a été organisée de façon à coïncider avec un festival folklorique local. La conférence s'avère être une mesure d'ordre pratique de plus prise par le gouvernement lettonien, son peuple et la communauté scientifique internationale afin de contribuer à la restauration et la survie de cette langue. D'autres communautés de langue moins répandue pourront peut-être s'inspirer de ces efforts.

Prof. M.V. Diachkov,
Institut des problèmes ethniques dans le domaine de l'éducation,
Moscou, Russie

Le frison du Saterland

Le Saterland (Allemagne) est la plus petite enclave linguistique en Europe. Dans cette région du nord-ouest de la Basse-Saxe dont la population s'élève à quelque 10 000 habitants, on parle le frison du Saterland ainsi que le haut-allemand. Le frison du Saterland est le dernier vestige de l'ancien frison oriental qui appartient à la branche allemande occidentale du groupe linguistique germanique.

Vers 600 apr. JC., les Westphaliens habitaient le Saterland. Un grand nombre de personnes furent chassées par les grandes marées occassionnées par les tempêtes sur les côtes de la mer du nord. Les Frisons ont quittés la région de Dollart pour s'installer dans le Saterland où la population westphalienne d'origine est peu à peu devenue une infime minorité. En conséquence, la législation frisonne, le mode de vie frison et par-dessus tout la langue frisonne se sont au fil du temps répandus dans la région. Un territoire frison était né sur le Sagter-Ems.

Le fait que cette langue ait réussi à survivre si longtemps peut être attribué à l'aspect isolé et retiré de l'endroit. En effet, la région du frison du Saterland était entourée par une vaste ceinture de marécages qui l'a rendue difficile d'accès pendant des siècles et a isolé ses habitants du «monde extérieur». Le Saterland a été rattaché pour la première fois au réseau de chemins de fer interrégional en 1907 et, en 1914, une route a été construite de Friesythe, dans le Münster, à Detern, en Frise orientale, en passant par le Saterland.

Par ailleurs, l'assurance culturelle et la fierté des habitants du Saterland les ont également aidés à sauvegarder leur langue tandis que leurs voisins de la Frise orientale ont abandonné leur langue nord-allemande d'origine en faveur du bas et haut-allemand.

Après 1945, en raison de l'arrivée de réfugiés d'Allemagne de l'Est, de l'amélioration considérable du réseau routier vers l'extérieur et d'une mobilité accrue des gens, la diffusion et l'utilisation de la langue ont beaucoup diminué ainsi que la mesure dans laquelle les gens s'identifient avec elle. Même au sein du Saterland, c'est aujourd'hui une langue minoritaire qui, dans une société moderne et internationale, risque fort de disparaître.

L'Association de patries Selter-Bund occupe de la survie et de la promotion de la langue. Cette association est membre du comité allemand du *Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues* et s'efforce d'obtenir la reconnaissance du frison du Saterland en tant que langue minoritaire conformément à la *Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires.*

Aujourd'hui la sauvegarde de ce patrimoine culturel est soutenue par des efforts bénévoles au niveau des jardins d'enfants, des écoles et de la formation continue. Il faut que les personnes responsables des affaires culturelles aussi fassent des efforts et trouvent des moyens imaginatifs de promouvoir cette langue minoritaire. Mais il n'en reste pas moins que pour qu'elle survive, il faut avant tout que les habitants du Saterland s'identifient bien davantage avec leur langue ainsi qu'avec la culture frisonne.

Theodor Griep.

UNE CÉLÈBRE **COLLECTION CELTIQUE SE BRANCHE SUR L'INTERNET**

La **Bibliothèque Salisbury**, une collection sans équivalent de rares documents gallois et celtiques à l'Université du pays de Galles à Cardiff, sera disponible sur ordinateur aux bibliothèques de toute la Grande-Bretagne et du reste du monde.

La bibliothèque Salisbury détient plus de 50 000 livres, gravures et manuscrits sur l'histoire, la langue et la culture du pays de Galles auxquels sont ajoutés plusieurs milliers chaque année. Quelques-unes des œuvres publiées de la collection remontent à 1508 dont la version latine de L'Histoire des rois de Grande-Bretagne par Geoffrey de Monmouth. La collection comporte aussi près de 100 œuvres «uniques», dont une élégie de 1791 sur la mort de William Williams, Pantecelyn, le plus grand écrivain du pays de Galles du XVIIIe siècle; une édition de 1818 en gallois du célèbre Herbier britannique de Colpepper et une édition unique de 1820 du Nouveau Testament en gallois.

Le Conseil du financement de l'enseignement supérieur pour le pays de Galles a accordé £125 000 à l'Université du pays de Galles à Cardiff pour permettre le transfert des détails du catalogue de Salisbury sur Libertas, le système de catalogue de bibliothèque informatisé qui relie un réseau de 50 bibliothèques universitaires à travers toute la Grande-Bretagne. Libertas est aussi relié à un réseau global d'information d'ordinateurs, l'Internet, ce qui fait de la bibliothèque Salisbury la plus importante banque de données bibliographique galloise et celtique du monde.

L'Université du pays de Galles à Cardiff dispose de l'une des bibliothèques les plus à jour de la Grande-Bretagne et se sert de la toute dernière technologie pour appuyer l'enseignement et la recherche. Elle possède un réseau de 10 bibliothèques sur une surface de plus de 12 000 mètres carrés. Elle détient un stock de presque un million de livres et 9 000 titres de revues universitaires sur 30 kilomètres d'étagères. Elle renferme plusieurs collections spécialisées en plus de la bibliothèque Salisbury et c'est là que se trouve le Centre d'information et de documentation européen.

Pour plus de renseignements contacter : Peter Keelan, The Salisbury Library,

- am unrhyw ymholiadau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg
University of Wales, Cardiff. Téléphone : 874000 poste 5691 Debra Evans, Public Relations Officer
Téléphone : (01222) 874499 ;Télécopie : (01222) 874457
Courrier électronique : evans@cd.ac.uk

Appel pour créer un réseau lexicographique pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires d'Europe

En raison du petit nombre de gens dont c'est la langue maternelle et surtout de leur structure d'âge défavorable, le bas-sorabe, une langue autochtone slave occidentale qui est parlée en Basse-Lusace, dans le sud du Brandebourg, est une des langues régionales d'Europe les plus menacées. À quelques exceptions près, cette langue n'est plus transmise dans le cadre familial depuis deux ou trois générations, et, depuis 1947 n'est généralement plus apprise qu'à l'école. L'enseignement d'une langue est de la plus haute importance lorsqu'il s'agit de conserver cette langue. Pour que l'enseignement d'une langue soit optimal, il faut, entre autres, qu'il existe du matériel pédagogique spécifiquement adapté à la situation particulière de la langue. Ce matériel doit inclure notamment des dictionnaires conçus en pensant à l'élève, c'est-à-dire des dictionnaires contenant non seulement l'information traditionnelle mais surtout des informations sur la syntaxe et le potentiel de collocation des éléments lexicaux.

Afin de jeter les bases d'un tel dictionnaire de bas-sorabe conçu en pensant à l'élève, la section des Études de bas-sorabe de l'Institut sorabe commencera à constituer en 1996 un corpus de textes exploitable sur machine dans le cadre d'une vaste banque de données lexicales du bas-sorabe standardisé.

Comme nous supposons que des projets analogues concernant d'autres langues européennes régionales ou minoritaires sont à l'étude et peut-être même au-delà, nous avons l'intention de créer un réseau lexicographique européen pour l'échange d'information et de consultation. Nous prions toutes les institutions et parties intéressées par un tel réseau de contacter:

Dr. Gunter Spiess, Sorbisches Institut, Zweigestelle für niedersorbische Forschungen, August-Bebel-Straße 82, D-03046 Cottbus. Tél.: + 49 355 793044; Télécopie + 49 355 793797

Courrier des Lecteurs

L'occitan

Madame, Monsieur,

J'ai pu lire dans le dernier numero, a la page 11 (la situation des langues regionales ou minoritaires en Europe) que la France n'avait soumis aucun rapport concernant ses nationalités. Je tiens à exprimer ici mon indignation. Je trouve parfaitement scandaleux qu'un pays qui se pretend le pays des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie ne fasse absolument aucun cas des composantes vivant sur son territoire. Cela dure déjà depuis très longtemps. Rappelons-nous Mitterand et son fameux discours de Lorient, Fabius, qui, lors d'une interview, a réaffirme que le français etait la seule langue de la République. On peut donc se demander ce que vont devenir nos langues.

La France continue d'être l'un des rares pays centralisés en Europe et cette dictature linguistique, culturelle et économique exercée par Paris se reflète dans de nombreux domaines de la vie publique. Les différentes langues parlées en France ne sont pas encore sauvees, loin de là. Tant que le pouvoir s'exercera d'en haut et que la décentralisation sera un echec (voulu?), la situation ne pourra qu'empirer. N'y -a-t'il aucun moyen au niveau europeen pour obliger la France à reconnaitre officiellement l'existence de différentes ethnies sur son territoire?

Les langues de France ne sont pas ou presque pas représentées dans les médias. En revanche j'ai pu lire dans ce dernier numéro de Contact Bulletin l'article concernant Radio Pais, censée représenter les langues minoritaires. J'ai eu l'occasion d'écouter cette station à l'heure occitane et je n'ai malheureusement pas entendu un seul mot d'occitan. Les différents reportages se faisaient tous en français!

Le travail qui reste à faire est énorme et il serait peut-être opportun que les différentes minorités françaises travaillent ensemble afin d'exercer une pression plus forte face au pouvoir central.

Thierry Jaubin, Rotenbergstr 30, D-66111 Saarbrücken, Allemagne

Le scots

Madame, Monsieur,

Une campagne a été amorcée pour faire inclure une question relative au scots dans le prochain recensement. En conséquence, l'occasion m'est offerte de présenter les arguments en faveur de l'inclusion d'une telle question à l'organe officiel des recensements. Je serais très reconnaissante si vous pouviez me renseigner sur les questions relatives aux langues dans d'autres recensements nationaux : sous quelle forme sont-elles posées? comment les résultats sont-ils utilisés? quel genre de campagne a-t-il fallu mener pour obtenir leur inclusion?

D'autre part, cela nous rendrait service si vous pouviez faire connaître nos efforts et encourager les gens et les institutions à m'écrire des lettres de soutien.

Je vous prie de croire, Madame, Monsieur, à mes sentiments très dévoués.

Dr. Catherine Macafee
University of Aberdeen, Dept. of English
King's College
Aberdeen AB9 2UB
Écosse

Le bas - saxon

Chers Collègues,

Je m'adresse à vous aujourd'hui pour vous poser une question et vous faire une demande en ce qui concerne le bas-saxon.

Depuis plus d'un an maintenant je suis avec beaucoup d'intérêt et de plaisir les activités du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues et je suis heureux de voir qu'il aide à faire connaître et protéger les «petites» langues de l'Europe.

Par ailleurs, en tant que linguiste et Allemand résidant à l'étranger, je suis ravi que le Bureau s'occupe des langues minoritaires de l'Allemagne: le danois, le frison oriental , les variétés de frison septentrional, le bas-sorabe et le haut-sorabe. Il est toutefois dommage que la liste soit incomplète et que depuis tout ce temps je n'aie jamais eu l'occasion de lire la moindre référence à notre bas-saxon dans les publications du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues. Comment cela est-il possible ?

«Bas-saxon» est le nom scientifique de la langue plus couramment appelée «bas-allemand». Cette langue est utilisée dans tout le nord de l'Allemagne ainsi qu'en Europe de l'Est, en Asie centrale, dans le sud de Afrique, en Australie et en Amérique. Dans de nombreuses régions du nord de l'Allemagne, le bas-saxon avait remplacé le frison jusqu'à ce que le haut-allemand y supplante en grande partie le bas-saxon à son tour.

Le bas-saxon descend directement de l'ancien saxon et est donc assez voisin de l'anglais. Sa forme médiévale, le moyen bas-saxon [ou «moyen bas-allemand»] était utilisée comme langue mixte internationale (sabir) parmi les villes membres de la Ligue hanséatique le long des côtes de la mer du Nord et de la Baltique. Le bas-saxon n'est pas un «dialecte allemand», bien que ceci ait été pendant longtemps le point de vue officiel en Allemagne et que cette conviction soit encore aujourd'hui répandue dans le peuple. Il est bien plus éloigné du haut-allemand que le scots [«lallans»] l'est de l'anglais, par exemple. Le bas-saxon appartient au groupe linguistique du bas-allemand et est par conséquent beaucoup plus voisin du néerlandais que du haut-allemand bien que le bas-saxon moderne ait été fortement influencé par le haut-allemand et notamment par un type d'orthographe du haut-allemand. Un locuteur de haut-allemand du sud peut comprendre le bas-saxon seulement s'il l'apprend comme langue étrangère alors qu'un néerlandophone peut assez bien le comprendre sans l'étudier.

Depuis environ trois siècles, le haut-allemand remplace de plus en plus le bas-allemand. Aujourd'hui, seulement une petite minorité utilise le bas-saxon, principalement dans les campagnes. Jusqu'à il y a encore quelques années, son image était celle d'un vernaculaire inférieur des classes paysanne et ouvrière et pourtant nombre de grandes œuvres littéraires ont été écrites en bas-saxon. Bien que la langue soit plus communément associée à un type de littérature populaire et des pièces de théâtre de genre folklorique, il existe aussi des ouvrages sérieux en bas-allemand et même de la poésie moderne. Récemment, l'image du bas-saxon a retrouvé un peu d'éclat et dans un certain milieu la langue est même devenue 'chic'. [Pour combien de temps ?] Il n'en reste pas moins qu'elle n'est plus que la langue d'une petite minorité et qu'il est urgent qu'elle soit reconnue et protégée. D'une manière ou d'une autre, le bas-saxon ne doit pas être absent de la liste des "petites" langues de l'Europe, même si certaines personnes croient encore qu'il appartient à un groupe de dialectes.

C'est pourquoi je demanderais qu'à l'avenir vous et vos collègues défendiez le bas-saxon et en teniez compte dans les publications du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues.

Cordialement vôtre,

Reinhard F. Hahn, SM-38, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-9950, États-Unis, Courrier électronique: rhahn@u. washington.edu

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Prof Sergio Cecotti, President Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia (see interview p. 10)

The Intergovernmental Conference

On 29th March last the heads of government of the fifteen member states of the European Union met in Turin to initiate an Intergovernmental Conference which is intended to refine and redevelop the European Union by providing it with structures and outline policies which can bring it safely and securely into the third millennium.

In a recent letter to the European Bureau and indeed to other organisations and individuals, Commissioner Marcelino Oreja wrote of a *pact with the people* between the Union, the member states and the citizens. While it is probably going too far to say that the near rejection of the Maastricht Treaty illustrated *a democratic deficit* as some people said, it has to be recognised that democratic structures will not function properly unless there is an effective two-way flow of information and communication.

The Intergovernmental Conference or the IGC, as it is more commonly referred to, will continue to work throughout the year or even into 1997. The existing treaties, and more particularly the Maastricht Treaty, will be reviewed and amended as seen fit due to the fact that it is barely comprehensible to the great mass of European citizens.

The IGC opens up a new window of opportunity for the European Bureau and for all those concerned for Europe's linguistic and cultural diversity. The Bureau was active in the run-up to Maastricht and it would be in no way fanciful to say that the lobbying, particularly in the European Parliament, had an influence on the framing of Articles 126 and 128 of the Treaty and in particular to the explicit reference to "national and regional cultural diversity" in Article 128. Amongst its proposals for amendments to the Maastricht Treaty are the following:

We propose that the words ***respect and strengthen in all its diversity in the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of the citizens of the Union*** be added to Article B of the Maastricht Treaty which sets out the main objectives of the EU.

Framework Convention

Article F, as it stands at present, states that *the Union shall respect fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed in Rome on 4 November 1950 and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the member states, as general principles of community law.*

The Bureau is proposing that *the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities signed in Strasbourg on 1 February 1995* be added to this. While the Framework Convention (see full text CB Vol 12 Nr 1) has its deficiencies and weaknesses, it is nevertheless a useful legal instrument for protecting the rights of minorities. Incidentally, the European Parliament, in adopting the Bourlanges-Martin Resolution is proposing that the EU actually accede to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. If ultimately accepted, this could be an extremely significant development in so much as an EU citizen could take his/her case, not only to the European Court for Human Rights but to the EU's own European Court of Justice. The significance of this is that the judgements of the European Court of Justice are binding on EU member states whereas those of the Human Rights Court are not.

Subsidiarity

Article 3[b] of the Maastricht Treaty deals with the principle of subsidiarity. However, as Article 3[b] stands at present, it does little to advance the principle of subsidiarity and indeed stands open to misuse by some member state governments as a cop-out from certain actions which do not find favour with them. It reads:

The Community shall take action, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity and only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the member states.

We are proposing that the words ***and by the regions or local authorities endowed with decision-making powers under the domestic legislation of the member state in question*** be added to this text. This, incidentally, is exactly the same as that being proposed by the Committee of the Regions. In effect, it brings a new meaning to the concept of subsidiarity and extends the concept downwards to regional and local authorities.

Committee of the Regions

The Bureau has also taken on board two other proposals from the Committee of the Regions which relate to the Committee itself. We are proposing that Article 4 of the Maastricht Treaty be amended so as to include the Committee of the Regions as one of the Community's decision-making institutions. [At present, the Committee of the Regions has only a consultative role]. We are also proposing that Article 198[A] be amended to read: ***A Committee consisting of representatives appointed by regional and local bodies who have a mandate from the electorate or are politically accountable to an Assembly elected by direct universal suffrage, is hereby established with advisory status.***

Article 8 of the Maastricht Treaty deals with the concept of citizenship and the Bureau is proposing that the following sentence be added to paragraph 2 of the Article: ***The Union shall cherish all its citizens equally and shall uphold their rights irrespective of race, nationality, language, culture or religion.***

Education

We are also proposing two amendments to Article 126 to the Treaty which deals with education. Paragraph 2 of the article at present refers to the **teaching and dissemination of the languages of the member states**. The Bureau is very conscious that the language or languages of the people are not always the same as the official languages of the member states and we feel that it would be more appropriate that this article should read: ***The teaching and dissemination of the languages of the citizens of the Union.*** A new indent should be added to the same paragraph which would give as one of the educational objectives of the Union - ***Promoting tolerance of and respect for the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of the citizens of the Union.***

European Language Policy

The Bureau is also proposing to the IGC that it ask the Commission to prepare a Green Paper on a European language policy. As the European Union expands and is joined by new states in central and eastern Europe, the linguistic challenges facing the Union will become considerably greater. The whole concept of working languages and official languages needs to be looked at afresh. Such a discussion paper and the debate which would ensue from it should be open and unhurried. Language is something which affects all EU citizen including those whose mother tongues are lesser used languages.

Under the French Presidency an abortive attempt was made to reduce the number of full working languages to five - French, German, English, Italian and Spanish. Not only was this unsuccessful but it gave rise to concern and suspicion among speakers of the smaller official, working languages e.g. Dutch, Danish, Greek, Portuguese that their languages were about to be denigrated. As the European Union expands and is joined by new states in central and eastern Europe, the linguistic challenges facing the Union will become considerably greater. In his address entitled *Language Planning : Structures and Legislation*, which was delivered at the Annual Colloquy of the Bureau in Brussels on 13 February 1993, the Director-General of Language Policy in Catalonia, Senyor Miquel Reniu i Tresserras, proposed that the EU drop the distinction it makes between ***official languages*** and ***other languages*** and that this be replaced by one between ***working languages*** and ***all the other languages*** He envisaged that the EU might manage with two working languages, as the Council of Europe does, but that it would never have more than four or five. In practical terms this would mean that the official gazettes of the member states or regional governments might publish, perhaps in summarised form, and in each autochthonous community language, be it the national language or a lesser used one, important elements contained in the Official Journal of the European Communities. The European Commission should also have all necessary documentation available in the "other languages" to serve the public. What is absolutely essential is that any decision on official and/or working languages be taken only after full consultation with the citizenry of Europe so that no people would feel excluded or marginalised.

At the time of writing, it is still far too early to foresee how the IGC may progress. Some pessimists fear that it will end in deadlock because of the gap between the federalist vision of the new Europe and those who are totally opposed to any development which might impinge on the sovereignty of the member state.

There are many voices to be heard in this debate. What we in the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages are endeavouring to ensure is that the 40-50m. European citizens who speak our languages will be afforded an opportunity to have their voice heard also.

Dónall O Riagáin, Secretary General, European Bureau for lesser used Languages

European Parliament priorities in regard to the IGC

On Wednesday, 13 March 1996, the European Parliament, in plenary session, adopted a motion for resolution on its Opinion on the convening of the IGC and its evaluation of the work of the Reflection Group and definition of the political priorities of the European Parliament with a view to the Intergovernmental Conference. The resolution and accompanying report were prepared by two rapporteurs, Mme. Raymonde Dury and Mrs. Johanna Maij-Weggen. This is the second major resolution on the IGC which the European Parliament had adopted in the course of the past year, the first being the one prepared by Messrs. Bourlanges and Martin in May 1995.

The Dury/Maij-Weggen Resolution covers practically all aspects of the EU's operation including the EU institutions, budgetary procedures, legislative procedures, security and defence policy, environment and citizenship among many others. The debate on the resolution and report generated enormous interest and during the plenary session alone, no fewer than 231 amendments were tabled.

Among the amendments put forward and adopted at Committee stage was one from Mr. Michl Ebner MEP [Sud Tirol]. In the final text of the resolution, this constitutes paragraph 4.13 and reads:

"The European Union should support the recognition of cultural and linguistic diversity and protection of traditional national minorities and their languages by the Member States and, in the context of human rights, democracy and the rule of law provide express recognition, protection and support for its minority languages and cultures".

The words ***and support*** were added at plenary stage following on the adoption of an amendment tabled by Mr. Jaak Vandemeulebroucke MEP [Flanders].

In the course of a passage of the report through the different stages in the EP, a number of parliamentary committees, other than the Institutional Affairs Committee which has primary responsibility for the report, put forward Opinions. In the Opinion put forward by the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media one finds echoes of the proposals put forward by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages over the past year. In its conclusions, this Committee considered that the Treaty of Maastricht should be amended in accordance with the following principles:

1. *The European Union must set itself the objective of developing solidarity among the peoples of Europe on the basis of respect for their historical personality, national and regional linguistic diversity, cultural identity, dignity and freedom;*

2. *Europe is and will remain multinational, multilingual, multicultural and multiethnic. This diversity is a crucial element of the European heritage which the Union has a duty to safeguard;*

2a. *Parliament calls for the following new indent to be inserted in Article 126[2], between the first and second indents:*

- *Promoting tolerance and respect for the cultural diversity of Union citizens.*

3. *The European Parliament calls for Article 128 to be amended as follows:*

1. *The European Union shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the member states, whilst respecting the identity of their peoples and their national and regional diversities, and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore.*

2. *The Union shall take measures aimed at encouraging and promoting:*

- *youth exchanges;*
- *cultural and linguistic understanding between citizens;*
- *artistic and literary creation, particularly in the audiovisual sector;*
- *knowledge of the Union's cultural life both within and outside its frontiers;*
- *the safeguarding of the European cultural and artistic heritage;*
- *the safeguarding of the media, cultural and linguistic diversity and minority languages;*
- *the free movement and exchange of cultural objects;*
- *the harmonisation of the law on copyright;*
- *citizen access to diverse communications and information*

Publications

"Lingua e dialetto nella Grecia Calabrese: aspetti linguistici e culturali" Christina Petropoulou, in: Archivio Storico per la Calabria e la Lucania 59 (1992), pp 153-172". This report consists of a sociolinguistic analysis of Greek Calabria, carried out in 1984 and from 1987 to 1990. The analysis took place in the area and involved over 200 people. Amongst the subjects investigated were the situation of the Greek language: its oral and written usage as well as the relationship between Greek as spoken in Italy and that spoken as mother tongue in Greece.

"Sprachenpolitik in der Lausitz, Eine Dokumentation 1949-1982", (Language Policy in Lausitz-Documentation from 1949 to 1982) Ludwig Elle. Bautzen/Budyšyn. Published by Domowina Verlag, 1995, 280 pages., ISBN 3-7420-1628-8. Price 38 DM. An introduction and study entitled 'Nationality Policies in the GDR 1949-1989' make up the content of this collection consisting of 70 unpublished documents from the archives of the SED. The book concludes with an addendum of data on the Sorbs and an index of the documents included.

"Zeitzeichen 1918-1933, Quellen zur sorbischen Geschichte: Martin Kasper. Published by Domowina Verlag, 1995, 240 pages ISBN 3-7420-1625-3. Price 39 DM. A collection of 105 documents on Sorbian visions of law and life in Germany from 1918 to 1933.

"Ergebnisse einer Symposienreihe: Ungarndeutsche Identität in Europäischer Dimension/A Szimpózium-sorozat eredményei: A magyarországi németek identitása európai látószögből. Stuttgart 1995, 36 Pages. This German/Hungarian bilingual publication contains the acts of three symposia which took place in 1993/4 in different German places in Hungary. A short section of the publication gives an overview of the protection accorded to minorities by European Institutions. This is followed by a special section which deals with the theme of Hungarian German identity dealing specifically with areas such as Educational and Information systems, Culture, Churches and Religion, Family and Youth. The final section covers the relation between the Hungarian Germans and the state, the nation state, other minorities, the mother country, as well as its international relations.

Wolfgang Jenniges

In Brief

Working Languages of EU Institutions

While the EU has eleven official, working languages it would appear that two languages, French and English, completely dominate both oral and written communications in the EU institutions. In a recent edition of *New Language Planning Newsletter*, published by the Central Institute of Indian languages, reports on recent research carried out by the Gerhard-Mercator-Universitat in Duisburg (Germany), employees of the EU were asked by means of a questionnaire which of the official, working languages they actually used for their work in various situations.

Findings showed that French and English dominate as working languages in the institutions of the EU. French is by far more widely used than English in internal communications, with 75% of written communications being in French. In communications with member states of the EU French is still ahead with 54% of oral communications and 56% of written communications. In world-wide communications the picture is reversed with 69% of oral and 71% of written communications being in English. While German is more widely spoken as mother tongue than any other EU language, its actual use by the institutions of the EU is extremely limited. While the research in question was carried out before the accession to the Union of Austria, Finland and Sweden and while the research had inevitably to be based on a cross sample of employees, it can hardly be disputed that two major languages continue to dominate the scene.

Dónall Ó Riagáin

Return to Sender, address unknown

In an open letter to the French postal services, Pere Taillant, Catalan language activist in Perpignan, brings the service to task for not delivering letters on which addresses are written in Catalan. In spite of the fact that Perpignan Municipal Authority under the auspices of the town hall supports the language and goes as far as erecting street names in Catalan which share equal status with French signs, and the fact that the micro toponomy of this area is mostly in Catalan, many letters with names written in Catalan are returned and stamped with "voie inconnue". La Poste claims that addresses in Catalan pose technical problems but Taillant argues that these can be easily overcome and that there are plenty of employees of the postal service with a knowledge of the language who could help overcome such problems. All technical problems are overcome, however in the processing of Post Office cheques which La Poste readily accepts in Catalan!

3615 Catalunya

On a brighter note, an information service in Catalan on Catalonia is now available on the French Minitel service throughout the whole of France. Sponsored by the Generalitat de Catalunya, Radio Arrels, and Televisió de Catalunya, the service provides users with information on Catalonia both north and south of the Spanish and French borders. "Catalogne Actualité" provides up-to-date news on the region while "Information Constitutionelle" describes Catalonia and its political and administrative structures. Other services are: tourism in and around Perpignan, sport, culture, fairs and conferences and the Barcelona stock exchange.

Basque on CD-Rom

9,000 pages with 1,000 photographs on the Basque language is now available on CD-Rom complete with illustrations and diagrams. Anyone seeking information on almost any aspect of this language and its social, historical, linguistic etc. situation will find it all here. Versions are available for Windows and Mackintosh and all the information can be saved and copied under other formats for use with other software programmes. Other features include a high power search facility, dynamic visualisation system and hypertext type navigation system. Copies and further information available from: **Servicio de Publicaciones del Gobierno Vasco, Duque de Wellington 2, E-01010 Vitoria Gasteiz (Alava).**

Computerised Linguistic Resources

The Institute of Cornish at the University of Exeter, Cornwall is studying how computerised applications can provide a useful linguistic resource for lesser used languages. The computerisation of selected aspects of language would provide a common resource that would link minority languages while at the same time permitting them to retain and present their own individual features. The project at the Institute concentrates on Cornish and the Celtic languages and amongst the computer-based applications under consideration are the development of an online dictionary to enable vocabulary retrieval according to different fields and parameters, the creation of parallel text examples in the several Celtic languages that would illustrate language in context and the development of hypertext links between international sources of Celtic culture as part of the global information superhighway. **Further information from Jo Pye, Assistant Librarian, University of Exeter, School of Mines Library, Exeter, UK.**

D Breathnach

Fàilte

Comunn na Gàidhlig, the Gaelic development agency, launched a comprehensive Gaelic tourism brochure in 1995 entitled Fàilte (Welcome). The brochure, published initially in Gaelic, English, French and German, was the first step in a major marketing strategy. It was prompted by growing interest from abroad in the revival of the Gaelic language and a desire to experience true Gaelic culture. It features facilities and events with a Gaelic flavour and lists some 200 accommodation providers who are Gaelic speakers. The response to this publication has been very positive and a monitoring assessment indicated that visitors were, as a result, keen to investigate Gaelic-related activities.

Fàilte is an excellent prototype for linguistic communities whose cultural tourism products remain elusive to the casual traveller. Comunn na Gàidhlig plans to publish the brochure in further languages and is now concentrating on a more comprehensive strategy for the Gaelic tourism market. **For further information, contact David MacCrossan: Tel: + 44 141 339 2022**

Bilingual Catalan-French Classes in the State Educational System

Bilingual education is now the surest way of bringing Catalan into the schools of Northern Catalonia. Thanks to the work carried out by La Garrigole Secondary school in Perpignan and its success in obtaining 'European Section' grading for its classes, bilingual classes were then introduced to nursery schools in 1993. These classes are now being taught in state schools in the Saint Assiscle area of Perpignan . Over one hundred children from three to seven take part in these classes and in the next few years it is intended to introduce bilingualism to other classes throughout the primary school system.

An equal amount of hours is given to each language. Reading, writing and mathematics are taught in French, while science, history and geography are taught in Catalan. Art, music, and physical education are taught in both languages. All in all 13 hours per week in Catalan and 13 in French.

In four years La Garrigole will introduce these schoolgoers to the "European Section" classes where classes taught through Catalan will be increased to include history, geography and science. Bilingual classes will also be introduced to Maillol secondary school in Perpignan where already this year 6 pupils are taking part of their history and geography classes in Catalan.

F. Caillis-Bonet, Commission pour le bilinguisme, Casa dels països Catalans, Pl Universitat, F-66860 Perpinyà Cedex.

Regional or minority languages and cultures: **the European Commission's 1996 action programme**

Since 1981 the European Parliament has adopted a certain number of resolutions to promote the view of the European Union with regard to its linguistic and cultural diversity. In accordance with these resolutions, the Commission is responsible for implementing an action programme in favour of regional or minority languages and cultures. This action programme is financed by Budget Line B3-1006.

The autochthonous languages traditionally spoken by a part of the population of a European Union Member State can benefit from this action, considering the competences of the Member States and with respect to the principle of subsidiarity. The Official Journal of the European Communities (2 December 1995, No 95/C 322/13) calls for applications for the coming year and outlines the guidelines in the awarding of grants.

The main objectives of the Commission are: to encourage initiatives in the fields of education, culture and information; to strengthen European cooperation and exchanges of information between defenders of regional or minority languages and cultures, and to promote the teaching of the lesser used languages in all educational domains.

Within the limited resources available the Commission intends to finance projects in relation to its objectives: teaching projects, initial and continued training, publications, production of teaching materials, projects on standardization, seminars, meetings and cultural events, actions in favour of the use of the language through the media. Projects will mainly be selected for their European dimension, their lasting and widespread effects on the linguistic community and the need for urgent action with consideration for the situation of the concerned community.

The Commission will only fund up to a maximum of 50% of the total costs. EU aid is designed to complement existing finance only and may not exceed amounts already donated by local, regional or national sources. Projects must be received by the Commission before 1st March 96 for projects commencing from 15 June of the same year and before 15 June for projects commencing on 15 October 1996.

The grant application form may be obtained by writing to the following address: **European Commission, DG XXII, 19/95, for the attention of Dr. Profili, Regional or Minority Languages, B-7 6/60, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel. Facsimile:(32-2) 296-42-58.**

Christian Demeuré-Vallée

New Act on the Status of the **Slovak Language**

On 15 November last, the Slovak Parliament adopted a new language act making Slovak the only official language of the Slovak Republic. Despite strong opposition and public protests from linguistic minorities within Slovakia, the new legislation was adopted by 108 votes to 17, with 17 abstentions. Even the opposition parties which are generally opposed to the present Government coalition voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Act. The 17 votes against the Act came from the 17 deputies belonging to minorities who described the new law as a violent act of forced assimilation.

Slovakia has a large Hungarian minority of c.567,000 persons, amounting to 10.7% of the population. In addition to this there are a number of smaller minorities including Romas, Czechs, Ruthenians, Ukrainians and Germans. Reaction from the Hungarian government has been strong and Minister President Horn in a letter to Slovak President Meclar at the beginning of November last warned of rising tensions in relations between the two governments were the law to be passed.

Measures contained in the new legislation appear to impinge seriously on the linguistic rights of Slovak citizens belonging to these minority communities. According to the new Act, the state language is now a condition of employment in all public bodies. Transactions must be conducted in this language, not only in official business but also in mutual official contact, throughout the entire territory of the Slovak Republic. All signs, advertisements and notices (be they public or private) designed to inform the public must be written in Slovak and all articles to be sold must be labelled in Slovak only. It is also expressly state that there is no compulsion whatsoever on employees of the state sector to know the minority's language at their place of work. This of course has enraged members of the Hungarian minority who availed of a clause in the old law which stipulated their right to deal with the local authorities in areas where the minority language was spoken as a mother tongue by more than 20% of the local population.

One of the reasons for such anti-minority legislation would appear to be renewed fear of Slovaks to increasing Hungarian influence in these areas; areas which for centuries came under Hungarian rule. According to Culture Minister, Hudec, the Slovak language must be protected in these regions and brought forward out of the hinterland.

The Secretary General of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Donall Ó Riagáin, expressed a deep concern at certain provisions of the new language act, saying that at best they would be counter-productive and at worst could lead to confrontation:

"Slovakia signed the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of the National Minorities and ratified it on 14 September last. The Slovak authorities would now seem to me to be about to breach certain provisions of this Framework Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, particularly Articles, 10, 11 and 14. In certain circumstances a breach could even occur of Article 5 paragraph 2 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms".

"The type of legitimate aims which this new language Act may be intended to achieve could better be achieved by a well-prepared and researched corporate and status language planning programme", observed Mr. Ó Riagáin.

Christian Demeuré-Vallée
Diarmaid Breathnach

New Publications from the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages

Vom
Dal
al diritto collettivo

Language Rights, Individual and Collective, *Living Languages Series 2. Author: Silvia Carrel, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, 1995, 44 pages, Price: 8 ECU, ISBN 90-74851-19-3 (German), 90-74851-20-7 (Italian).* Following a first version in English and French, *Language Rights, Individual and Collective* is now available in German and Italian. This second issue of the "Living Languages" series deals with the broad area of lesser used languages in public administration. The reader is given an overview of provision (or lack of) for minority languages in public administration: the end result is a very varied picture. The booklet also contains examples of more developed policies, such as those implemented in Catalonia or in the Basque Country, which can provide a source of inspiration for many disadvantaged language communities.

Feeling at home in your language, *Living Languages Series 4, Author: Ricarda Jenniges, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, 1995, 48 pages, Price: 8 Ecu. ISBN 90-74851-24-X.* The "Living Languages"series consists of thematic booklets presenting the importance of the different domains of social use of our languages. Illustrated with many examples taken from sociolinguistic works, the publication clearly displays the crucial role played by the family in building a future for minority languages. Indeed, family appears both as the necessary basis for mother tongue transmission and mother tongue bonding so that it plays a crucial part in language use in later life. Completed with proposals for necessary actions to implement within the family and its social surroundings, this booklet can be regarded as a strategic mini-guide for linguistic recovery.

Scotland, a linguistic double helix, *European Languages Series 2. Authors: Iseabail Macleod and Aonghas MacNeacail. The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, 1995, 48 pages, Price: 8 Ecu, ISBN 90-74851-21-5.* "European Languages" is a monographic collection on the various lesser used languages communities within the European Union. The booklet displays the Scottish linguistic diversity. It is divided into two parts. The first one is about the Gaelic situation. Still spoken in the North and in the West of Scotland, the language represents the Celtic inheritance of the country. The second part is devoted to Scots, a language belonging to the Germanic family and descended from northern Old English, the language is still alive in the South and in the Centre of Scotland. The two chapters are linked by common elements: they both tell the history of these languages throughout the centuries and they provide a panoramic view of the present linguistic situation.

Coproduction Advisory Group, Final Report, *the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, 1995.* The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages set up in 1992 a TV Coproduction Advisory Group whose final report sets out thoughts and propositions in order to develop the access of small languages to modern communication tools. Despite encouraging attitudes from European institutions true for opportunities of coproduction in the

audiovisual sector, through European programmes such as MEDIA and EURIMAGES, minority languages suffer from a lack of concrete measures in trying to have access to major media. They weaken their position from day to day in

relation to dominant cultures. It is within this overall context that the Advisory Group, composed of media specialists in lesser used languages, defines immediate work priorities in order to develop coproductions, exchanges and audiovisual creation in those languages.

Youth Information Booklet-a Directory of youth organisations pertaining to the lesser used Language communities, ***European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. Compiled by Caoimhe Ni Lochlainn. European Bureau.*** A continually updated listing of youth organisations throughout the different lesser used language regions of the EU. Each section is divided in accordance with the different member states of the EU with the exceptions of Portugal and Greece. In addition to these listings details are also provided on youth programmes financed by the EU and the Council of Europe. The final few pages are taken up with listings of youth events throughout minority language regions.

Also available, **the Annual Report of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages 1994** which provides a view of the realisations and activities of the Bureau's member state committees and permanent offices. It also displays through the Bureau's action the main events towards a recognition of the EU's linguistic communities over the past year.

Future publications from the European Bureau will include another in the Living Languages Series on North and Eastern Frisian, a comprehensive report on experiences of participants to lesser used language regions as part of the annual study visit programme and the production of a Pluridisciplinary Teaching Material Package the aim of which will be to introduce the European dimension at primary school level in subjects such as history, geography civics etc.

All of the above publications would not be possible without the financial support of the European Commission.

Readers interested in receiving copies of any of the above publications need only fill out the form below and send it along with payment to the respective offices of the Bureau (v. addresses back page).

Christian Demeuré Vallée/D. Breathnach

European Bureau Publications - **Order Form**

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☐ *Guide to Legal Documents, Support Structures and Action programmes pertaining to the lesser used languages of Europe* ☐ *Guide des Documents légaux des structures d'appui et des programmes d'action concernant les langues moins répandues de l'Europe*	8 ECU
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☐ *European Community Activity in Favour of Lesser Used languages 1983-1989*	5 ECU
☐ *Les activités des Communautés europeennes en faveur des langues et cultures moins répandues 1983-1989*	5 ECU
☐ *Die Tatigkeit der Europaischen Gemeinschaft fur die Sprach-und Kulturminderheiten 1983-1989*	5 ECU
☐ *Attivita della comunità a favore delle lingue e culture meno diffuse 1983-1989*	5 ECU

☐ *European Bureau Annual Report, 1994*	☐ *Rapport annuel du Bureau europeen 1994*	2 ECU
☐ *Coproduction Advisory Group, Final Report*	☐ *Groupe consultatif de Coporod. televisuelle*	6 ECU
☐ *Youth Booklet*	☐ *Livret à la jeunesse*	

Information Brochure on the European Bureau

☐ *Eenheid in Verscheidenheid*	☐ *Aontacht san Éagsúlacht*	☐ *Unità nella Diversità*
☐ *Einheit in der Vielfalt*	☐ *Unité dans la diversité*	☐ *Unity through Diversity*

☐ *Mercator Information Networks: A Resource for European Languages*

Name
Address

REPORTING THE EUROPEAN MOSAIC - Journalism and Lesser Used Languages

The international conference **Reporting the European Mosaic** held from 26 to 29 October last was aimed primarily at journalists working in the lesser used language press and was organised by the Welsh Writers' Association in cooperation with Mercator Media, Golwg (Welsh language weekly), and the University of Wales Cardiff School of Journalism. It was supported by the EU Commission, the UK Year of Literature and Writing, and BBC Cymru Wales.

The aim of the conference, which was attended by journalists from a wide variety of countries and backgrounds, was to reflect the wide spectrum of issues concerning the publication of newspapers and magazines in lesser used languages. The first session was dedicated to daily newspapers with contributions from Bojan Brezigar editor of Slovene language newspaper *Primorski Dnevnik* in Trieste and Martxelo Otamendi editor of the Basque daily *Egunkaria*. A discussion followed during which Mr. Brezigar stressed the point that the highest form of media that a linguistic minority could seek was a daily newspaper, and not television, as so many people seemed to believe nowadays.

The second session of the conference focused on the role of the press within the Community as a linguistic, cultural and political instrument. To what extent, for example, is it possible to write *in* the language without writing *for* the language? Should or can journalists disassociate themselves from political processes in their own communities and beyond? Within their own communities, the roles of minority language journalists and majority language journalists may be very similar, but there is however a great difference in the way they see and report on each other's communities. The relationship between the *centre* and the *periphery* was the theme of the third session.

During the second day participants visited the Welsh-speaking rural town of Llambed where they met with Mr. Vicent Partal of *La Infopista*, the Catalan site on the World Wide Web which now plays an important part of Catalan media. There then followed a session on the local press which also highlighted the success of minority languages in filling the information vacuum. There is no doubt that local news is consumed in minority languages, but how do literary or cultural magazines see the balance between home features and the international dimension? These questions and others were debated and discussed in detail and the contents of these discussions will be made available in the next few months in the acts of the conference (see below).

The final session of the conference was dedicated to youth magazines. Sytske de Boer presented the International Network of Correspondents, a network of youth magazines in lesser used languages and copies of *Pyst*, a Frisian youth magazine involved in the network, was presented. Representatives of youth magazines from Friuli, Ireland and Asturias were also present. The conference ended with the adoption of a resolution below which was sent to the President of the European Parliament, Klaus Hansch, the President of the European Commission Jacques Santer and the President of the Committee of Culture, Youth, Education and the Media, Luciana Castellina.

A collection of articles by fifteen journalists from various language communities was published to coincide with the conference. Entitled 'A Week in Europe' it is available from the publishers University of Wales Press, as will be the papers of the Conference: University of Wales Press, 6 stryd Gwennyth, Caerdydd CF2 4YD, Wales; tel.: + 44 1222 231 919; fax: + 44 1222 230 908.

Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones - MERCATOR MEDIA

Resolution:

The Conference of Journalists working in the lesser used languages of the European Union meeting at Swansea and Lampeter in Wales from 26-29 October 1995 passed the following resolution which it has asked me to transmit to you:

The Conference

1) Condemns those national and regional governments which discriminate financially on linguistic or ideological grounds against press and media in minoritized languages

2) Calls for action at European level to strengthen the press and media of the minoritized languages of the European Union in the face of the globalisation of the commercial media and information industries.

3) Calls for the establishment of a European union budget line to support press and media in the minoritised languages.

Linking Language and Economy

Ask a group of well informed Basque, Breton, Welsh or Frisian speakers to think about the link between language and economy, and it is likely that they will focus immediately on the use of languages in business, especially in advertising, labelling and signs. In view of the growing significance of commercial and consumer concerns in our lives, this is hardly surprising.

However, on further investigation, they will identify a far more profound relationship between language and culture on the one hand, and enterprise and economy on the other. It is now widely accepted in economic development circles that the values held by a linguistic community can have an identifiable impact on attitudes to enterprise and economic activities. In addition, language and culture can be important generators of prosperity in the public, private and voluntary sectors. For these and other reasons, it is imperative that language planners become involved in regional and economic planning and that economic development agencies in turn have programmes which acknowledge the deeper realities of bilingualism, recognising it as an opportunity rather than as a problem.

Economic Development Forum for European Lesser Used Language Communities

Over the past number of years, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages has considered ways in which it could demonstrate the significance of economic issues in language maintenance and promotion, alongside well established programmes in education, publishing and the media. The Bureau subsequently offered active support to the creation of an annual Economic Development Forum for European Lesser Used Language Communities.

The Forum, which has representatives from some 15 linguistic communities, has met annually since its creation in 1993. It was established at an inter-cultural seminar on lesser used languages in Newcastle Emlyn in Wales, in which representatives from eight linguistic communities participated. The aim of the Forum is to provide a regular opportunity for members to explore ideas for improving the economic prosperity of lesser used language communities. This year's Forum meeting will be held in Ireland in the Autumn.

Agora

Between meetings of the Economic Development Forum, the aims and objectives of delegates are promoted by Agora, an enterprise information exchange which is based in the offices of Menter a Busnes, an economic development organisation which deals with Welsh speakers, in Aberystwyth, Wales. Agora was established in late 1994 and aims to widen the network of organisations which operate in the economic field in lesser used language regions throughout Europe to ensure a flow of ideas between members and, most importantly, to encourage the creation of project teams which will explore new sources of funding.

Inter-regional project teams now operate in most of the priority areas outlined by members of the Economic Development Forum at their annual meetings. These include broadening the career horizons of young people, business and management education, lesser used languages and the Information Society, and linguistic cultural tourism.

Agora has a database listing over 200 organisations and companies which operate in the economic field in lesser used language communities. It distributes information about the latest developments in the language-economy field to these contact organisations by form of a newsletter. This newsletter is published twice yearly, and is available to all who are interested in the subject. Agora also provides an advisory service for individuals and organisations who are searching for information or inter-regional partners for European Commission-funded projects.

PACTE: Exchange of Experience Programme

One project which has grown out of the Agora network is an initiative which will create links between centres which provide business and management education through the medium of lesser used languages. The European Commission has recently awarded a modest sum to Agora to facilitate an exchange of information, experience and techniques between institutions in Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Friesland, Catalonia and the Basque Country.

It is of great importance that business and management education are placed in a wider economic development perspective. It is increasingly recognised that linguistic culture has a profound effect on attitudes to entrepreneurship, career choice and economic performance. The provision of vocational courses in business and management through the medium of the local language will serve to increase the numbers of people who eventually manage their businesses through these languages. Graduates from such colleges will be in a position to lead a new generation of workers in an environment which is more sensitive to their cultural and linguistic background and needs.

The project which has just been approved for funding under PACTE will comprise of a number of seminars and one concluding conference. Participants view this modest project as an opportunity to establish common links with other institutions and to initiate discussions regarding future collaborations. It is hoped that a network of this type will help individuals in the participating institutions to overcome the sense of isolation that many have identified as a restraint on their development to date.

For further information on Agora, contact Caitríona Ó Torna:
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World Conference on Linguistic Rights

From 6 to 9 June next Barcelona (Catalonia) will host the World Conference on Linguistic Rights, the idea for which was first discussed during a meeting of the International Pen Club's Committee for Translation and Linguistic Rights, held in November 1993. After some weeks, the Committee requested CIEMEN, a non-governmental organisation, specialising in studying and promoting linguistic rights, for its cooperation in bringing the idea to fruition. CIEMEN accepted the proposal and during the Second International Symposium on Linguistic Legislation, organised by "Mercator: Linguistic Rights and Legislation" (which is based in the CIEMEN offices in Barcelona) a first draft of the Declaration was presented. It is this draft which will be proposed for approval at the World Conference.

Aims

The main aim of the World Conference on Linguistic Rights is to take the first step in addressing the legal and political vacuum which exists in this field. Such a vacuum creates serious problems for lesser used language speakers in that it affects basic rights concerning human dignity (the right to equality and difference), and is the cause of much conflict that could be avoided if it were filled.

More specifically, the Conference will draft a text on the proposal for an 'intergovernmental protocol on linguistic rights'. The protocol will be presented to the governments of the constituent states through various sections of the Pen Club and recognised for NGOs that choose to join this initiative. It is intended that such a protocol serve as a reference point in demands for linguistic rights and recognition NGOs and other bodies. Moreover, the World Conference will suggest the channels through which any future intergovernmental conference on linguistic rights can be promoted. Ultimately, it is intended for the protocol to be a binding text, a standard, for all the states that have accepted it, and it is hoped that the UN will consider it as the basis for a proposal for a Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights which might have equal status with other declarations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in particular.

In addition to the above, the Conference will also increase international public awareness of linguistic rights, and their place in society. The large amount of information gathered on legal texts concerning minority languages will be available at the conference and will serve as background material in the drafting of a the universal declaration.

For information on any aspect of the World Conference on Linguistic Rights, please contact the secretariat at:

Secretariat de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Dreta Lingüistics, c/o CIEMEN, Rocafort, 242 bis E-0 8029 Barcelona, Phone +34.3.4443800, Fax: +34.3.4443809.

New Language Law for Friulan

Two regions in Italy recently passed important legislation aimed at defending minority languages. Friuli-Venetia Giulia approved the law for the protection and promotion of the Friulan language and culture while the Region of Basilicat a passed a law for the promotion and defence of linguistic minorities of Greek-Albanian origin. The Region of Venice approved during the past few months the first regional law for linguistic minorities which is very releveant for Italy in general where up until now the central government insisted that the State be responsible for such legislation and not the regions. It is within this general context and within the specific context of Friuli-Venezia Giulia that we spoke with the President of the Region, Professor Sergio Cecotti.

Mr. President, the Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia has recently passed a law aimed at protecting the language and culture of Friuli. Could you give us a brief description of the contents of this law?

With this law the region intends to carry out an active policy of conservation and development of the language and culture of Friuli. These are regarded as the essential elements of the ethnic and historical identity of the community of the region and also as the central question in the development of its special autonomy. In order to implement specific measures both the Region and local bodies may enter into agreements with the Universities of Friuli-Venezia Giulia and with other establishments and institutions, both public and private.

The law promotes scientific activities (research, teaching, training of specialists in the language and culture of Friuli), cultural activities, and the conservation and improvement of Friuli's patrimony in terms of books and documents. There is a separate section dedicated to the use of the Friulan language, to the possibility of it being taught at school, and to the transmission of television programmes in Friulan. Lastly and most importantly, we have set up the Regional Institute for the Language and Culture of Friuli, an essential instrument for the implementation of the aims of the law through the various specific channels.

The final approval was reached after an initial rejection on the part of the Government. What were its objections and how were they dealt with?

Basically, it was a question of spheres of influence: if the Region is involved in the sphere of protecting "culture", then it cannot be involved in that of "language", and there was also the fear on the part of the "state controller" that the region would enact legislation in an area outside its competence, perhaps arriving at a "public use" of Friulan. The Regional Council took note of these objections, concentrating on the essence of the problem: that is, to promulgate a means of protecting and developing Friulan language and culture, seen as a unique and indivisible inheritance, while maintaining intact the basic values of the law in the precise area of regional authority.

What will the results of this law be for the protection of the Friulan language? Will people's expectations be met?

The law as such certainly does not fulfill all the needs of the Region, but it is an important instrument that will contribute to keeping alive the culture of an entire people. In this sense, it is my opinion that the expectations of the people can be met. I must however stress that the law on its own, no matter how good, is not enough to attain all the aims that have been set. What is needed is the active participation of everyone - institutions, associations, individual citizens.

Do you consider that the Region has fulfilled its duty with this law or are there further initiatives in sight?

As I have already stated, the recently passed law is one of the possible forms of intervention. There are others at the planning stage: for example, just recently the Regional Council approved a draft law - which will now pass on to the Government for study - on the connections with communities of people from this region who are living abroad. This is a law that will reinforce the links with the homeland of those who have been forced to emigrate, links that are not only economic but also cultural.

This region contains minority languages such as Slovene and other languages of Germanic origin. What has the Region done, and what does it intend to do, for these minority language groups?

The policy that the Region intends to follow in this area is that of working commitedly towards the recognition and protection of all the minorities and all the peoples living in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. Having said that, the problem needs to be clarified: whereas, for the Friulan language, the Region was able to operate within its own sphere of competence, when it came to other minorities, however, the most important of which is without doubt Slovene, as these are "national minorities" they fall in to the sphere of the State and involve matters of national relevance (this is the case of RAI in the matter of radio and television programmes in Slovene). In this case it is the duty of the Region to encourage the state and national bodies not to delay in carrying out suitable measures for the protection and development of the culture and language of the various minorities.

Focus on Friuli-Venezia Giulia

In the autonomous region of Friuli-Venezia Giolia there are three linguistic minorities: Slovene, Friulan and German. The history, tradition, number of speakers and level of protection which is applicable to each of these linguistic minorities differs from community to community.

The Slovene community is spread over three Provinces: the province of Trieste, the greater part of the Province of Gorizia and that section of the province of Udine which borders with the Slovene Republic. The level of linguistic protection accorded these minorities differs according to the province in which they are located: in the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia, the Slovene Community enjoys official recognition, while in the province of Udine the Slovene Community is still not officially recognised.

The Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia provides state funding for cultural activities of the Slovene minority. Those contributions for 1996 will amount to 8 billion Lira (4 m ECU). For the purpose of this funding, a consultative commission was founded, consisting of 9 people of whom 6 are members of the Slovene minority community. The Commission sets down a criterion for the distribution of the contributions, and this criterion is then applied by the regional government. Among the major benefactors are the Slovene Theatre, the Music School, the Slovene Library, the Research Institute and also the private bilingual school in the province of Udine. The province of Udine, therefore, also benefits from this funding.

The Friulan community is an autonomous linguistic group which forms part of the Ladin family of languages of which the Ladin community in Italy and the Rhaeto-Romansch in Switzerland also form a part. The Friulan community is to be found in the provinces of Gorizia, Udine and Pordenone. The language has made much progress in the past years, and the standardisation of the language bears witness to this in particular. Books and dictionaries have been produced and a private radio broadcasts in Friulan.

The Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia has been for some time now attempting to promote the language. Some regional laws have been applied (for example in regard to road signage) and contributions have also been channelled into associations that are engaged in the protection of the Friulan language, among the most important benefactors is the Società Filologica Friulana.

The German linguistic minority community is situated in three 'linguistic islands' in the mountainous areas of Sauris, Timau and Valcanale. This community does not enjoy any form of protection, even though such protection is quite necessary. In Valcanale for example three linguistic minority groups consisting of Romance, Germanic and Slavic cultures, coexist in a border area.

In general the Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia actively promotes various initiatives, cultural manifestations and conferences with regard to the minority languages of the region.

Bojan Brezigar

European Bureau elects **new Board** and **new President**

During its Annual Assembly in Barcelona, on 15 and 16 December last, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages elected a new Board of Directors with four new members out of the six. A Welsh business consultant Mr. Allan Wynne Jones, replaces Ms Helen Ó Murchú (Ireland) as Bureau President.

Mr. Jones attended the University College of Wales Aberystwyth and Clark University Mass. USA where he graduated in Geography and International Politics. He was first employed by the BBC as research assistant and this was followed by eight years with the Wales Tourist Board as Marketing Director. Following a period in the hotel industry, Mr Jones, became a consultant in language, culture, tourism, marketing and business development and is at present involved in promoting the economic enterprise of Welsh speakers with Menter a Busnes where he manages projects in tourism, community development, business support services and cross-cultural activities. His term of office with the Bureau will be three years.

Other elections which took place during the Bureau's Annual Assembly in Barcelona in December last were the Board of Directors. The election of Mr. Christian Brandt, General Secretary of the Swedish Assembly in Finland, as one of the Vice-Presidents follows the establishment of a Finnish member state committee of the Bureau. Mr. Bojan Brezigar, a newspaper editor and representative of the Slovenes in Italy, was also re-elected Vice-President.

Other members of the Board are Jelle Krol (Friesland), Jean-Luc Fauconnier (Francophone Community in Belgium) and Peadar Ó Flatharta (Ireland).

The General Assembly of the Bureau confirmed the Bureau's will to influence the Intergovernmental Conference, which will be held in 1996 and will be seeking to obtain a more explicit legal recognition of linguistic and cultural diversity in any future Treaty of the European Union. Only a clear reference to the existence of the different linguistic communities will guarantee the definition of a European policy for the protection of minorities.

Furthermore, the Bureau will continue in the coming year to expand its presence in Europe. Contacts are at present being established in Sweden with representatives of autochthonous minorities there. It is expected that these contacts will lead to the setting up of a member state committee in this country during the coming year. Further links will be developed with linguistic communities in countries which have applied to join the Union in the coming years while a particular effort will be made to ensure cooperation with minorities in eastern Europe.

Christian Demeuré-Vallée
Diarmaid Breathnach

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THE EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES seeks to conserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Union, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland, and an AISBL in Belgium. It works in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the European Commission, the Irish Government, the government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the Germanophone Community in Belgium. Rent-free accomodation is provided for its Brussels Information Centre by the Francophone Community in Belgium

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Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues
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DANS CE NUMÉRO

Les Pays - Bas ratifient la Charte européenne
Discographique bretonne
Nouveau statut pour le romanche
Association de radiodiffusion ethnique
Télévision en irlandais

Les langues moins répandues de la **Finlande** et de la **Suède**

Finland

La Suède et la Finlande sont entrées dans l'Union européenne le premier janvier de l'année dernière et ont apporté avec elles les langues moins répandues parlées dans leur pays. Le suédois est une langue moins répandue en Finlande tout comme l'est le finnois en Suède. Le sami est une langue minoritaire dans les deux pays tandis que le finnois tornedalien est parlé en Suède et le russe et le tatar en Finlande. Le Bureau européen vient d'établir un comité d'État membre en Finlande (voir adresse en dernière page) et espère en faire autant en Suède avant la fin de l'année.

Les Finlandais de langue suédoise

La Finlande est un pays où se côtoient deux principaux groupes de langues : le finnois et le suédois. La situation du suédois en Finlande n'est pas très différente de celle de l'allemand en Alsace ou du danois en Allemagne, en ceci que c'est la langue majoritaire d'un État membre de U.E. qui est parlée en tant que langue minoritaire dans un État membre voisin.

La population suédoise descend en grande partie de colons paysans qui s'installèrent sur les côtes ouest et sud de la Finlande entre 1150 et 1250 apr.J.-C. La Finlande fit partie du royaume suédois jusqu'en 1809 lorsqu'elle fut conquise par l'empire russe qui lui conféra le statut autonome de grand-duché. Le pays proclama son indépendance en 1917, après l'effondrement de l'empire russe. Le suédois resta la langue dominante de l'administration non seulement au cours de la période suédoise qui dura 650 ans mais aussi durant la première moitié du XIX^e siècle. Ce n'est qu'en 1863 que le finnois fut reconnu langue officielle à côté du suédois. Très vite, le finnois devint la langue dominante de l'administration et si les Finlandais ethniques furent dans une certaine mesure «suédisés» sous l'autorité suédoise, une grande partie d'entre eux se «refinlandisèrent» vers la fin du XIX^e siècle. La population suédoise de la Finlande s'élève aujourd'hui à 5,7% de la population. Numériquement, ils sont donc une minorité mais pas juridiquement puisqu'ils forment un des deux groupes linguistiques en Finlande.

Suédois
Sami
Finnois
Russe
Tatar
Rom

Législation

La constitution finlandaise de 1919 déclare: «*Le finnois et le suédois sont les langues nationales de la République*». Les deux langues sont par conséquent égales aux yeux de la loi bien que ceci puisse également être interprété comme un principe moral et politique plutôt que comme une loi à application immédiate. L'utilisation des langues dans l'administration et dans les tribunaux dépend essentiellement du caractère linguistique du district administratif. Les municipalités sont soit monolingues, soit bilingues. Sont monolingues, les municipalités dans lesquelles la population entière parle la même langue maternelle ou dans lesquelles la minorité linguistique n'atteint pas 8%. Si toutefois une minorité linguistique comprend plus de 3 000 personnes, la municipalité est considérée bilingue même si la minorité ne forme pas 8% de la population totale.

Bien que la situation des Finlandais de langue suédoise soit bonne au point de vue de la législation, elle n'est pas sans problème lorsqu'il s'agit de la mise en œuvre de cette législation. Ceci est surtout dû à «l'immigration» massive de locuteurs de finnois vers des régions autrefois de langue suédoise, notamment dans et autour de la capitale. Ce phénomène découle de l'urbanisation et de l'industrialisation qui ont suivi la deuxième guerre mondiale. L'émigration de Finlandais de langue suédoise vers la Suède entre 1950 et 1980 a aussi eu des conséquences négatives sur la langue en Finlande. Par exemple, un problème qui a soulevé de nom-

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breux débats au début des années 1980 était le manque de services de télévision adéquats en suédois dans la plupart des régions habitées par les Finlandais de langue suédoise. De grands progrès ont été faits dans ce domaine d'une part en augmentant les programmes produits par les Suédois en Finlande sur les chaînes de télévision finlandaises, ensuite grâce à un accord réciproque intervenu entre les radiodiffuseurs nationaux de la Suède et de la Finlande et enfin, depuis 1988, en retransmettant des programmes télévisés de la Suède.

Éducation

Il ne fait aucun doute que la défense du système éducatif autonome en Suède a énormément contribué à établir une autonomie culturelle pour les Finlandais de langue suédoise. L'Université d'Helsinki et l'Université de Technologie sont toutes deux bilingues. Une université de langue suédoise, Åbo Akademi, a été fondée en 1918 et il existe aussi une École suédoise de sciences économiques. Au niveau de l'enseignement primaire et secondaire, il incombe aux municipalités d'entretenir les écoles dans leurs langues. Le ministère de l'Éducation nationale possède sa propre section suédoise. Le système éducatif finlandais garantit un enseignement en suédois à pour ainsi dire chaque enfant de langue suédoise au niveau primaire et secondaire. Un enseignement en suédois est également disponible dans un grand nombre d'autres écoles spécialisées et dans la plupart des matières au niveau universitaire.

Les Îles Åland

Ces îles jouissent d'un statut spécial de semi-autonomie et ont leur propre législation et corps législatif. Le suédois est la seule langue officielle de l'archipel. Durant la période qui suivit immédiatement la proclamation de l'indépendance de la Finlande, les habitants des Îles Åland voulurent que l'île fasse partie de la Suède. Le conflit fut résolu par la Ligue des nations qui plaça Åland sous la souveraineté de la Finlande mais stipula qu'elle lui confère le statut d'autonomie avec des garanties pour le suédois en tant qu'unique langue des îles.

Politique

Dans l'ensemble, la population suédoise soutient le Parti populaire suédois. A l'heure actuelle, il y a 17 députés de langue suédoise dont 12 appartiennent au Parti populaire suédois. Les locuteurs de suédois ont une autre voie de participation dans l'Assemblée suédoise dont l'objectif est de protéger et de promouvoir les droits et les intérêts de la minorité suédoise en Finlande. C'est le seul organe qui représente la totalité de la population de langue suédoise dans le pays. Les autres organisations suédoises en Finlande représentent des intérêts particuliers ou sont liées à certains mouvements politiques.

Développement au cours des dix dernières années

La population suédoise diminue depuis 1950 ce qui est principalement dû, comme nous l'avons mentionné plus haut, à l'émigration vers la Suède à raison de presque 2 000 personnes par an jusqu'en 1980. Ceci a influé sur la structure par âge de la population en réduisant le nombre de personnes en âge d'avoir des enfants. La situation s'est améliorée depuis les années 1980 et depuis 1984 l'émigration oscille entre 250 et 800 personnes par an. Ce ralentissement de l'émigration a pour raison principale le déclin de l'économie de la Suède, ce qui rend le pays moins attirant. Dans un avenir prévisible, le pronostic pour la langue suédoise en Finlande semble bon et les études les plus récentes (1993) montrent que le nombre de Finlandais de langue suédoise va se stabiliser à son niveau actuel du fait que le taux de natalité dépasse celui du reste de la population.

Christian Brandt

Population russophone

Selon le *un rapport publié en novembre 95*, 13 728 personnes en Finlande ont affirmé que le russe était leur langue maternelle. Ces chiffres ne représentent toutefois que les immigrants. Pour ce qui est de ceux qui se sont définitivement installés en Finlande au cours des dizaines d'années précédentes et que l'on peut considérer comme faisant partie d'une minorité ethnique russophone en Finlande, leur nombre est difficile à évaluer car, étant donné qu'ils sont citoyens finlandais, on n'inscrit pas leurs origines linguistiques. Il n'en reste pas moins qu'il existe une minorité autochtone russophone en Finlande qui est principalement composée des descendants des officiers, ecclésiastiques, marchands, entrepreneurs et artisans venus s'installer en Finlande au XVII^{e} siècle. L'installation de Russes se poursuivit au XIX^{e} siècle, durant la période où la Finlande était un grand-duché (voir ci-dessus) entre 1809 et 1917, lorsqu'un certain nombre de Russes résidents demandèrent et obtinrent la citoyenneté du grand-duché et s'y fixèrent définitivement. La plus grande partie d'entre eux étaient des marchands, des ouvriers et de modestes hommes d'affaires. La langue n'a aucun statut officiel en Finlande aujourd'hui.

Kirill Gluschkoff

Le tatar

Le tatar appartient à la branche nord-ouest du groupe turc de la famille des langues altaïques et est parlé par quelque 6 millions de personnes en Russie et dans certaines des républiques d'Asie centrale. Des locuteurs de cette langue, marchands et agriculteurs, s'installèrent en Finlande à la fin du siècle dernier. Plus tard, ces immigrants furent rejoints par leur famille et, lentement mais sûrement, ils s'organisèrent et réussirent en affaires. En 1925, ils fondèrent l'Association islamique finlandaise et, en 1935, la Société culturelle turque finlandaise. Aujourd'hui, ils organisent des cours de tatar et on estime que le nombre actuel de locuteurs de la langue en Finlande se situe juste au-dessous de mille.

Okan Daher

Sami

Le sami (Sámegiella) est une langue ouralique du groupe linguistique finno-ougrien et est la langue des Lapons ou Sámi, un peuple autochtone de la Finno-Scandinavie (Suède, Norvège et Finlande) et de la presqu'île de Kola, en Russie. La plus ancienne description de ce peuple a été écrite par Tacite dans *«De origine et situ Germanorum»* en l'an 98 apr.J.-C. La plus ancienne trace écrite du sami que l'on ait est une liste de 95 mots composée en 1557 par un capitaine de la marine anglais, Stephen Burroughs, au cours d'une visite qu'il effectua sur la presqu'île de Kola.

A l'heure actuelle, on estime qu'ils sont entre 50 000 et 100 000 dont (d'après le parlement sami) 6 400 en Finlande, de 15 000 à 20 000 en Suède, environ 23 500 en Norvège et

2 000 en Russie. On estime toutefois que le nombre de ceux qui parlent la langue ne dépasse pas un tiers de la population totale, c'est à dire 35 000 personnes. Les Sami dans les trois pays forment un seul peuple qui partage une histoire, une langue, une identité et le sentiment très fort d'appartenir à une communauté. Le territoire où est parlée la langue est un espace qui ne tient aucun compte des frontières nationales ou internationales et cela reste le signe le plus important de l'identité du peuple sami.

Il a fallu attendre le début des années 1990 pour que la langue commence à se consolider dans les écoles finlandaises et dans la fonction publique. En 1991, une loi a accordé la reconnaissance officielle à la langue et la même année des lois linguistiques pour l'enseignement secondaire sont apparues. Un an plus tard, en 1992, la Loi linguistique sami (Sami Language Act) est entrée en vigueur en Finlande et en Suède. Cette loi a pour objectif principal la sauvegarde de la culture sami en tant qu'entité vivante. D'autre part, elle égalise davantage le statut de la langue sami par rapport au reste de la population. Sur le plan pratique, cette loi a eu pour conséquences la création d'un Bureau de traduction sami et l'érection de signes bilingues sur les édifices publics et au bord des routes sur l'ensemble du territoire sami.

Parce que les adultes sami savent peu lire et écrire leur propre langue, la demande de services officiels dans la langue a été plutôt faible. L'intérêt pour la langue a toutefois augmenté avec la nouvelle loi linguistique et aujourd'hui, la langue figure davantage au programme scolaire qu'auparavant.

Des journaux en langue sami ont été publiés depuis les années 1870 et une station de radio sami diffusant en Suède et en Finlande a été créée en 1976. Par ailleurs, il existe un accord général entre les services nationaux de radiodiffusion de la Suède, de la Norvège et de la Finlande pour développer leur coopération dans la production de programmes en langue sami.

La langue sami d'aujourd'hui fait preuve d'une étonnante vitalité en tant que langue publique mais en raison du petit nombre de locuteurs, l'infrastructure linguistique nécessaire a dû être construite par un petit groupe d'activistes dévoués au sami qui oeuvrent contre une forte résistance. Malgré cela, il parait inconcevable aujourd'hui que la langue retombe un jour dans le piteux état qui était le sien il y a plus d'un siècle.

Diarmaid Breathnach

(Sources: *The Nordic languages - Their Status and Interrelations:* Lars S. Vik rs; *The Sami People*: Davvi Girjhi; *Cultural Minorities in Finland*: Finnish National Commission for UNESCO No. 66)

Suède

Finnois

Le finnois a sans doute été parlé en Suède pratiquement depuis que cette état existe. La Suède et la Finlande ont formé une seule nation pendant environ 650 ans et le finnois est historiquement la deuxième langue de la nation. On rencontre de nombreux panneaux indicateurs et noms de lieu d'origine finnoise à travers le pays, reflétant les migrations de la Finlande vers diverses parties de la Suède au cours des siècles. Au début du XVIII^{e} siècle, les Finlandais représentaient environ 4% de la population de la Suède et aujourd'hui ils résident principalement dans le centre du pays et dans les régions urbaines où ils ont acquis une forte identité.

La langue était totalement interdite dans les écoles (y compris pendant les récréations) au début du siècle et cette interdiction est restée en place jusque dans les années 1950. Le statut de la langue s'est amélioré au cours des années 1960 dans le domaine de l'éducation mais il reste cependant beaucoup à faire pour garantir à la minorité finlandaise ses droits linguistiques.

La mauvaise situation économique de la Suède a toutefois un effet néfaste sur la langue dans bien des parties du pays. Ces derniers temps, les autorités et hommes politiques locaux ont lourdement frappé la langue dans le domaine de l'éducation entre autres. Des études révèlent que le nombre d'enfants de langue finnoise qui reçoivent une éducation en leur propre langue a diminué en raison de la compression des dépenses effectuée par les autorités locales et ceci en dépit de la reconnaissance spéciale qui a été accordée à la langue le 15 décembre 1994 au Parlement. Un tel statut n'aide pas beaucoup la langue au niveau local tant qu'il n'y a pas de législation pour la soutenir. Partout en Suède, les autorités locales des communes sont ainsi libres de décider elles-mêmes des besoins des Finlandais et des façons de les aborder.

L'*Association nationale des Finlandais de Suède (ANFS)* presse le gouvernement suédois de signer la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires pour les langues finnoise, finnoise tornedalienne et sami. Elle demande aussi une chaine de télévision offrant un service complet, des améliorations dans le domaine de l'éducation, des logements pour les personnes âgées de langue minoritaire ainsi que d'autres services sociaux et une autonomie culturelle générale pour les Finlandais en Suède. L'avenir politique du finnois semblerait dorénavant dépendre d'un comité unique et de ses recommandations : le comité récemment nommé et chargé par le gouvernement suédois d'examiner si oui ou non la Suède peut signer et/ou ratifier la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires du Conseil de l'Europe (voir article page 6). Ce comité comprend trois membres du Parlement et trois membres représentant les trois minorités : les Sami, les Finlandais et les Finlandais tornedaliens.

Depuis sept ou huit ans, les communautés finlandaises en Suède travaillent activement pour la langue en créant leurs propres institutions. Une dizaine d'écoles privées comptant plusieurs centaines d'élèves se sont ouvertes dans diverses parties de la Suède afin de remplacer les classes finlandaises des écoles communales qui ont été fermées par suite de la compression des dépenses. (Ces écoles ont de rudes épreuves devant elles en raison des compressions budgétaires locales vu que le financement de ces écoles privées provient principalement des communes, conformément à la législation actuelle gouvernant ce genre de scolarité). Dans les régions principalement urbaines, de nombreuses garderies d'enfants fonctionnent comme des coopératives personnelles et quelques maisons de retraite gérées par des organisations finno-suédoises se sont ouvertes.

Ce travail de construction d'une infrastructure finno-suédoise se poursuit dans de nombreuses parties du pays et à bien des niveaux différents. Par exemple, il existe un projet de téléenseignement de niveau universitaire en coopération avec certaines universités aussi bien en Finlande qu'en Suède. Pour cela, les technologies de l'information les plus récentes seront utilisées. Cette initiative et bien d'autres visant à améliorer le statut des langues en Suède sont ardemment soutenues par le gouvernement finlandais en Finlande où une minorité de langue suédoise de quelque 300 000 personnes est protégée par la constitution. Il fait maintenant partie de la politique officielle du gouvernement de la Finlande de rappeller aussi souvent que possible à son homologue suédois combien il importe que les deux gouvernements protègent les minorités qui parlent la langue du pays voisin. Il est maintenant courant que les parlementaires et dirigeants des gouvernements de la Suède et de la Finlande aient des dialogues sérieux concernant les Finlandais en Suède au cours des réunions du Conseil nordique. Le président finlandais, M. Martti Ahtisaari s'est rendu en Suède et a passé une heure dans les locaux de e'ANFS, soulignant ainsi son soutien pour les revendications de l'organisation.

Heiki A. Kirjavainen

Finnois tornedalien

Le finnois tornedalien compte quelque 75 000 locuteurs. Entre 30 et 40 000 personnes parlent cette langue dans le comté de Norrbotten, dans la vallée du Torne, et 30 000 autres en dehors de cette vallée.

Le finnois tornedalien est un mélange de plusieurs variétés de finnois auxquelles se sont ajoutés quelques éléments d'autres langues, à savoir le suédois, le sami et le norvégien.

Par le passé, le terme officiel pour le finnois tornedalien était *meänkieli (notre langue)*, un terme qui établissait une distinction entre le finnois courant et celui qui est parlé dans la vallée du Torne. Ce terme a été utilisé de plus en plus couramment au début de notre siècle pour distinguer le finnois parlé en Finlande de celui qui est parlé en Suède. De nos jours, le terme finnois tornedalien/finnois est accepté en tant que description positive de l'identité culturelle de cette communauté. La langue a connu un point décisif en 1981 grâce à la création de l'association *Svenska Tornedalungars Riksförbund-Tornionlaaksolaiset (STR-T)* et l'introduction d'une campagne pour encourager les enfants à parler la variété locale de la langue à la maison avant de leur apprendre la langue courante ultérieurement. Les deux langues sont mutuellement intelligibles mais le finnois tornedalien, pour des raisons sociales et pédagogiques, a été défini en tant que langue elle-même.

Une station de radio locale qui diffusait en finnois courant depuis les années 1950 s'est mise, au cours des dix dernières années, à utiliser le finnois tornedalien et diffuse 3 heures et demie par semaine, temps d'antenne qui, incidemment, est moindre par rapport à celui qui est accordé aux langues des immigrants. Il n'existe aucun programme télévisé dans la langue. La région reçoit toutefois les chaînes de télévision de la Finlande mais les locuteurs de finnois tornedalien en Suède ne les comprennent pas toujours parfaitement.

Les attitudes envers la langue évoluent rapidement mais la moitié des résidents de la vallée du Torne sont encore en faveur d'une société monolingue de langue suédoise. Le mouvement du réveil de la langue s'est poursuivi à travers les années 1980 et, en 1989, l'*Academia Tornedaliensis* a été fondée pour faire fonction d'académie du peuple et d'université d'été. Le premier cours universitaire dans la langue a été celui offert par la section de finnois de l'Université de Stockholm en 1994 et aujourd'hui on peut l'étudier à tous les niveaux du système scolaire.

L'*Association des Tornedaliens suédois* se bat depuis 15 ans pour être reconnue légalement en tant qu'organisation représentant une minorité nationale. Une telle reconnaissance garantirait un soutien économique et culturel pour la promotion de cette langue minoritaire mais le parlement suédois définit les Tornedaliens comme faisant partie de la «population indigène d'origine» par contraste avec «une minorité nationale», en dépit du fait que le gouvernement a déclaré au Conseil de l'Europe que la Suède avait deux minorités nationales : les Sami et les Tornedaliens (voir référence faite au comité sur la Charte européenne ci-dessus). On présume que le rapport du comité récemment nommé recommandera que le gouvernement change de politique et que le finnois tornedalien recevra le même soutien et le même statut que reçoit la langue sami depuis le début des années 1970.

Birger Winsa

Bientôt un nouveau comité d'État membre en Suède

La 23e Assemblée annuelle de l'Association nationale des Finlandais de Suède s'est tenue à Eskilstuna, en Suède, du 17 au 19 mai 1996. Au cours de l'assemblée, l'Association a officiellement voté une résolution décidant d'établir un comité d'État membre du Bureau en Suède en association avec l'Association Tornionjoki STR-T, l'Organisation laponne et la Communauté sami en Suède. D'autre part, le congrès a élu Mme Anita Kangas à la présidence de l'Association.

Rencontre **d'étudiants**

Un projet, qui avait été lancé au cours de l'automne 1994 afin d'encourager les élèves d'écoles secondaires des régions de langue moins répandue à rencontrer d'autres élèves se trouvant dans la même situation, se déroule depuis un an et demi et remporte beaucoup de succès. Duborg-Skolen, une école secondaire de langue danoise située juste au sud de la frontière entre le Danemark et l'Allemagne, était une des écoles participantes et Christian Skov, un de ses professeurs, résume ici cette expérience. Ce projet a été financé par le budget pour les langues moins répandues de la Commission de l'U.E.

Tout a commencé en novembre 94 à Copenhague lors d'une conférence d'enseignants au cours de laquelle deux représentants d'établissements d'enseignement secondaire en Belgique, au pays de Galles et au Danemark se sont réunis pour mettre au point un programme pour la première partie du projet : une visite d'élèves de chacun de ces lycées au pays de Galles. L'idée de départ du projet est venue de M. Clifford Davies, le proviseur de *Machynlleth High School* au pays de Galles. Celui-ci a proposé que la première partie de la visite soit consacrée à la *«langue»*, c'est-à-dire que des élèves parlent de leur situation bilingue personnelle avec d'autres élèves se trouvant dans une situation similaire dans une autre région. La deuxième partie se concentrerait sur *«l'expérience professionnelle»* dans la région d'accueil.

La première visite a eu lieu au mois de novembre 1994 lorsque 10 élèves des 11e et 12e classes du lycée Duborg Skolen se sont rendus au pays de Galles accompagnés par deux professeurs. Du fait que nous avions pris le projet en cours, nous n'avons participé qu'à la partie *«langue»* du programme. Les écoles belges par contre avaient 10 élèves pour le projet *langue* et 15 pour la partie *expérience professionnelle*.

Dès notre arrivée au pays de Galles, nous avons rencontré les autres participants au centre de loisirs *Gwersyll-Glan-Llyn* qui est situé dans un terrain de camping sur les bords du lac Bala, dans le nord du pays. Des écoles de Limbourg, de Bruxelles, du Schleswig et du pays de Galles rural avaient envoyé dix participants chacune. Cinq observateurs irlandais se sont joints à eux, qui, à la suite de cette première expérience, ont décidé de prendre part aux autres projets. Cette conférence d'élèves de «Bala» a duré une semaine et s'est concentrée sur la langue galloise au pays de Galles. Les participants ont visité deux lycées gallois et ont passé le reste de leur temps au centre où ils ont participé à de nombreuses activités dont des sketches, des jeux, des chasses au trésor (ayant pour thème la langue et l'identité!) et ont assisté à des conférences sur les conditions de vie au pays de Galles. Tous ont cependant regretté qu'on n'ait pas consacré plus de temps à visiter la région.

Quatre mois plus tard, en mars 1995, nous nous sommes de nouveau retrouvés, en Belgique cette fois. Là, les observateurs irlandais qui étaient au pays de Galles se sont joints à nous. Nous avons passé la première partie de notre séjour à Limbourg, le «vilain petit Canard» de la société belge en raison de son taux élevé de chômage. La seconde partie de la visite a été consacrée aux institutions européennes de Bruxelles.

Un an après la première visite au pays de Galles, la minorité danoise a invité ce même groupe au Schleswig. Cette fois, ce sont des élèves de la minorité germanophone au Danemark qui ont participé à cette visite en tant qu'observateurs. Les participants étaient logés pour certains chez l'habitant et pour d'autres au centre Hojskole. Cette visite avait pour thème principal la différence qui existe entre les divers systèmes éducatifs. De plus, des études ont été effectuées sur la minorité allemande au Danemark, sa vie quotidienne et ses institutions ainsi que sur la minorité danoise au Schleswig. A la fin de leur séjour, les participants savaient beaucoup plus de choses sur cette minorité qu'au début.

Quel est le bilan de ce projet? Tout d'abord, les participants ont maintenant une connaissance plus profonde des autres minorités, grâce à quoi ils comprennent mieux leur propre situation. De plus, on s'est aperçu qu'il y avait d'énormes différences entre les systèmes éducatifs et les élèves des diverses régions linguistiques de l'Union européenne. En dépit de ces différences, les élèves partageaient les mêmes problèmes et tensions mais ces visites leur ont montré comment ceux-ci pouvaient être minimisés en apprenant à mieux se connaître les uns les autres et en coopérant plus étroitement ensemble. Avant et par-dessus tout, ce projet a permis aux élèves de faire de nouvelles expériences.

On pourrait soutenir que la perspective des visites était plutôt limitée puisqu'il s'agissait d'une entreprise entre quatre minorités seulement, danoise, flamande, irlandaise la galloise. À cela, on pourrait toutefois répliquer que c'est déjà un bon point de départ, susceptible de conduire à de plus grands projets: les Flamands pourraient inviter leurs homologues wallons, les Irlandais leurs cousins écossais etc. et ainsi agrandir le cercle et aboutir à une plus grande utilisation des langues moins répandues.

En bref

Occitan

C.O.R.D.E.A./LA TALVERA, l'association occitane fondée en 1979 afin de conserver le patrimoine culturel de la région a ouvert un nouveau centre à Albi (France). Le *Centro Occitan de Recerca, de Documentacion e d'Animacion Ethnografica* (centre de recherche et de documentation) est ouvert tous les jours au public désireux de visiter le centre de documentation, sa bibliothèque et ses diverses expositions. Depuis bientôt quinze ans, l'association fait un travail de recherche important sur la région et sa vaste collection comprenant photos, enregistrements, vidéos, manuscripts etc. est maintenant stockée et informatisée afin de la rendre plus accessible au public. Ce Centre sera un centre de recherche et de ressources disposant de programmes complets de recherche, d'archivage, de formation et de publication. Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à : **C.O.R.D.E.A./LA TALVERA, BP 40, F-81170 Còrdas. Tél. : + 33 63 56 19 17; fax : +33 63 56 24 87.**

Occitan

Lors d'une étude réalisée en 1991, 48% de la population régionale ont affirmé comprendre plus ou moins l'occitan et 20% ont dit le parler correctement. 55% étaient en faveur d'une utilisation et d'un développement plus grands de la langue. En réponse à cela, la *Région Lengadoc Rosselhon* (autorité régionale) et l'*Universitat Paul Valéry* ont créé un *Service Langue occitane* pour venir gratuitement en aide aux personnes cherchant des moyens d'utiliser davantage la langue. Ce service encouragera les gens à utiliser la toponymie traditionnelle en fournissant des traductions en occitan de la toponymie en français et donnera des conseils sur les moyens d'augmenter l'utilisation quotidienne de la langue (menus, noms de produits, publicité etc. en occitan). Ce service est fourni gratuitement en 1996. Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à : **Servici de la lenga occitana, UPV, BP 5043, F-34032 Montpellier cedex; tél. : +33 67 14 21 70; fax : +33 67 14 25 07.**

Basque

Les annuaires téléphoniques professionnels, ou pages jaunes, sont extrêmement populaires à travers toute l'Europe auprès des personnes qui cherchent des adresses ou des numéros de téléphone professionnels. Le Pays basque a maintenant un pas d'avance dans ce domaine car la compagnie du téléphone espagnole, Telefónica, a introduit le basque dans la dernière édition de l'annuaire. Pour la première fois, l'index comporte des rubriques en basque et la publicité à travers tout l'annuaire figure maintenant en basque aussi bien qu'en castillan.

Campagne de transmission de la langue

Les ministères de la Culture et de l'Education du gouvernement basque ont récemment lancé une campagne quinquennale en faveur du maintien et de la transmission du basque. L'objectif principal de la campagne est de stimuler une plus grande utilisation de la langue et d'assurer sa transmission d'une génération à l'autre. Intitulée «Ahoz ahoz, belaunez belaun» *(de bouche en bouche, de génération en génération)*, la campagne vise avant tout les enfants mais s'adressera aussi aux parents, aux futurs parents et de façon générale à tous ceux qui sont concernés par la langue. La campagne consiste en une exposition ambulante qui comprend des activités telles que des émissions en basque à la télévision et à la radio, des chants, des jeux, des dessins etc..

Arberesh

Un nouveau documentaire en cassette vidéo sur la vie du poète romantique arberesh, Zef Serembe (1843-1901), vient d'être produit et a été récemment lancé dans la salle du Conseil de San Cosmo Albanese (Strighari), en Italie. La vidéo s'adresse de façon générale à la communauté italo-albanaise du sud de l'Italie et devrait tout particulièrement intéresser les écoles où elle fera partie d'un ensemble de matériel éducatif. Le documentaire dure 40 minutes et est divisé en deux parties : la première partie est consacrée à la vie et à l' œuvre poétique de Zef Serembe tandis que la seconde traite plus généralement de la communauté albanaise de San Cosmo et de la vie quotidienne de sa population - activités agricoles, festivals religieux en l'honneur des saints patrons Cosmo et Damiano. Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à : Dr. Giovanni M.G./ Belluscio. Via E. Fermi 22, I-87030 Rende (Cs), Italie.

Mannois

Le seul cours de mannois à avoir lieu en dehors des Iles Britanniques est celui qui est organisé chaque année par la société néerlandaise *A.G. van Hamel Society for Celtic Studies*. Le cours a lieu du 12 au 14 août et est conduit par Dr. Brian Stowell, le responsable de la langue mannoise du service de l'éducation de l'île de Man. Le mannois est une langue celtique étroitement liée à l'irlandais et au gaélique d'Écosse. La dernière personne dont le mannois était la langue maternelle est décédée en 1974 mais il existe actuellement un petit nombre de locuteurs qui ont appris la langue directement auprès de ceux dont c'était la langue maternelle. Par ailleurs, la langue a un rôle modeste dans l'administration et la législation de l'île. Dans les écoles, le mannoise était enseigné comme matière facultative durant l'année scolaire 92/93 et 1 900 enfants ont opté pour ce choix. Pour de plus amples renseignements sur ce cours, veuillez vous adresser à : A.G. van Hamel Society, postbox 1427, NL-3500 BK Utrecht, Pays-Bas.

Diarmaid Breathnach

Les Pays-Bas ratifient la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires

Les Pays-Bas sont le tout dernier État membre du Conseil de l'Europe à avoir ratifié la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires.

Cette récente ratification est l'aboutissement de plusieurs années de préparation et de débat politique au sein du Parlement néerlandais depuis la signature de la Charte le 5 novembre 1992. En mai dernier, le Conseil de l'Europe à Strasbourg a reçu une lettre confirmant la ratification. Ceci porte à quatre le nombre des États qui ont ratifié la Charte (la Finlande, la Hongrie, la Norvège et les Pays-Bas). Il faut cinq ratifications pour que la Charte entre en vigueur. On s'attend à ce que l'Allemagne soit le cinquième État membre à la ratifier au cours de l'automne. Les pays qui ont signé la Charte mais ne l'ont pas encore ratifiée sont l'Autriche, Chypre, le Danemark, l'Allemagne, le Liechtenstein, le Luxembourg, Malte, la Roumanie, l'Espagne la Suisse, et l'Ukraine.

Dans le rapport explicatif accompagnant sa ratification, le gouvernement néerlandais a exposé à grands traits deux arguments principaux en faveur de cette Charte : sa contribution à la stabilité politique en Europe de l'Est et la consolidation de la position de la langue frisonne. Le frison est couvert dans la Partie III de la Charte et bien que les autorités locales et régionales de la région où est parlé le bas-saxon (le nord-est des Pays-Bas) aient exercé des pressions pour que leur langue soit incluse dans cette partie, il n'est reconnu que dans la Partie II. Aucune reconnaissance n'est accordée aux langues tsiganes et yiddish bien qu'elles aient souvent été mentionnées au cours des débats au Parlement.

En ce qui concerne le frison, le gouvernement néerlandais a signé 47 des recommandations de la Partie III, la plupart d'entre elles figurant dans l'article 8 (Enseignement), l'article 10 (Autorités) et l'article 12 (Vie culturelle). Les débats qui ont eu lieu au Parlement ont porté principalement sur les dispositions pour la télévision frisonne et le frison dans le cadre de l'enseignement professionnel. Les États membres qui ratifient la Charte s'engagent à créer un organe national pour chaque langue couverte par la Charte ou à reconnaître des organes qui existent déjà (Art. 7.4) ainsi qu'à préparer un rapport sur la situation actuelle de ces langues (Art. 15).

La Charte ne deviendra toutefois pas loi tant qu'un cinquième État membre ne l'aura pas ratifiée, tel que cela a été mentionné plus haut, et si le Conseil de l'Europe convoquait une réunion entre les États qui l'ont déjà ratifiée et ceux qui ont l'intention de le faire très prochainement, ce serait là une démarche positive susceptible d'accélérer le processus. Au cours d'une telle conférence, on pourrait discuter de la structure et du contenu des rapports nationaux qui doivent être publiés conformément à l'article 15. Lorsque cela se sera produit et lorsque la Charte entrera en vigueur, elle offrira des possibilités réelles et concrètes pour la promotion et la consolidation de nos langues à travers l'Europe. Pour ce qui est des Pays-Bas, ce dernier développement signifie que le frison est maintenant la seconde langue officielle de cet État membre.

Alex MJ Riemersma. **(Pour de plus amples renseignements, contacter: Berie foar it Frysk, Dr. Riemersma; tel. : + 31 58 2925 878; fax : + 31 58 2925 125).**

Dastum — Inauguration de la base de données discographique sur le service Minitel

La base de données discographiques réalisée par Dastum, recensant l'ensemble des références concernant la production discographique bretonne depuis les origines du disque à nos jours, était inaugurée le 9 juin dernier à Brec'h, Bretagne dans le cadre de la «Journée du disque breton», organisée par l'association Kerlenn Sten Kidna an Alre. Ce service (code d'accès 3615 dastum) vient compléter celui déjà existant sur le Minitel et permettant d'accéder à 15 000 références de documents iconographiques provenant de la photothèque Dastum.

Environ 2 500 références ont été rassemblées, qui vont des 78 tours de Botrel au disques compact d'Alan Stivell ou du groupe rock breton E.V., en passant par la chorale Saint-Mathieu, la cassette autoproduite d'un groupe amateur, les productions associatives, etc. Cette discographie permet ainsi de rendre compte de l'ensemble de la production en Bretagne à travers le temps, et de témoigner de la richesse et la diversité de ses expressions; elle constitue un outil de travail pour les bibliothèques, les discothèques, les radios, et pour tous les amateurs de musique bretonne, désireux de retrouver les réfrences discographiques de tel ou tel chanteur, musicien ou groupe, et représente une source d'information inestimable pour les recherches sociologiques, musicologiques, historiques sur cet aspect du patrimoine breton.

Le recensement a été réalisé principalement par Goulc'hen Malrieu et complété par Visant Dubois, grâce à l'aide de nombreux bénévoles qui ont aidé à réunir toutes les informations nécessaires. Certaines personnes ont aimablement déposé leurs vieux disques à Dastum, partageant le souci de l'association de préserver et rendre accessible ce patrimoine. Les disques rassemblés sont maintenant conservés en sécurité dans un local extérieur à Dastum et des copies sont réalisées au fur et à mesure pour la consultation au public. Pourtant le travail d'inventaire est loin d'être fini et l'association fait un appel auprès de toutes les personnes ou structures qui possèdent des disques et qui accepteraient de les communiquer à Dastum pour compléter cette mémoire discographique de la Bretagne qu'il devient urgent de constituer de façon exhaustive, les disques devenant difficiles d'accès au fil du temps.

L'opération a bénéficié du soutien financier du ministère de la Culture (Mission du patrimoine ethnologique), de la Direction régionale des Affaires culturelles de Bretagne et de l'Institut culturel de Bretagne.

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Suisse : Nouveau Statut constitutionnel pour le Romanche

Appelé à un référendum le dimanche 10 mars le peuple suisse a ratifié par 76% de votes favorables la modification de l'Article 116 de la constitution fédérale qui régit l'organisation linguistique de la Confédération.

Le romanche reconnu comme langue nationale de la Suisse au même titre que l'allemand, le français et l'italien ne possédait pas le statut officiel des trois autres langues de la Confédération. La nouvelle réforme constitutionelle lui accorde désormais une officialité partielle en stipulant que : *«Le romanche est langue officielle pour les rapports que la Confédération entretient avec les citoyens romanches»*.

Une autre alinéa ajouté à l'article 116 de la Constitution stipule que *«la Confédération soutient des mesures prises par les cantons des Grison et du Tissin pour la sauvegarde des langues romanche et italienne»*. En effet la pratique du romanche, langue d'origine latine parlée par environ 65 000 personnes dans les vallées des Grisons, a fortement régressé au cours des dernières années. La présence des médias d'autres langues et la pression des réalités économiques (développement du tourisme, accroisement de la mobilité) sont trop fortes et risque à terme de menacer sa survie. Face à ces difficultés, la conscience de son identité culturelle et linguistique s'est faite plus vite au cours de ces dernières années dans la population rhéto-romane. Aussi demande-t-elle avec de plus en plus d'insistance à pouvoir faire un usage aussi large que possible de sa langue maternelle dans la vie quotidienne. Dans d'autres vallées grisonnes, c'est l'usage de l'italien qui est fortement menacé. Le nouvel article constitutionnel exige donc de la Confédération qu'elle aide les Cantons concernés à sauvegarder et promouvoir ces deux langues.

Enfin la réforme constitutionelle insiste sur la compréhension et les échanges entre les communautés linguistiques constatant que les mutations économiques, techniques et culturelles survenues au cours des dernières années menacent de réduire le modèle communautaire suisse à une simple juxtaposition linguistique. La Confédération souhaite donc reserrer les liens entre ses quatre groupes linguistiques et renforcer le sentiment de ses citoyens et citoyennes d'appartenir à une même communauté.

Christian Demeuré-Vallée

L'Association européenne de **radiodiffusion ethnique**

L'Europe, de l'Atlantique à l'Oural, compte 750 millions d'individus représentant plus de 200 nationalités. Plus de 100 millions d'Européens appartiennent à des minorités linguistiques ou ethniques et sur les 70 langues européennes parlées, 31 seulement bénéficient du statut privilégié de langue nationale.

Le 29 septembre dernier, une fédération européenne constituée d'institutions de radiodiffusion des petites nations et nationalités a été créée à Klagenfurt, en Autriche, à l'initiative d'ORF (le service de radiodiffusion d'État autrichien) et de Circom Regional. L'objectif principal de cette nouvelle association, European Ethnic Broadcasting Association (EEBA) [l'Association européenne de radiodiffusion ethnique] est de faciliter et développer la coopération entre les journalistes responsables de la conservation du patrimoine ethnique européen et de faire mieux réaliser le besoin qu'il y a de conserver et de protéger les petits groupes ethniques et nations dans le contexte de la radiodiffusion. D'autre part, elle formulera des directives qui aideront les radioreporters à éviter de représenter les minorités ethniques de façon négative ou stéréotypée.

Communication, participation et intégration sont trois domaines à prendre particulièrement en considération lorsque l'on examine les rapports entre les minorités, l'État et le service de radiodiffusion de cet État. Le dialogue et la confiance réciproque entre l'État et le service de radiodiffusion public ainsi qu'entre la majorité et la minorité laissent bien souvent à désirer. Dans bien des cas, la création d'une institution fournissant un dialogue structurel peut être une solution efficace. De plus, le droit des minorités nationales à participer réellement à tous les aspects de la vie publique, y compris les secteurs qui conservent et promeuvent leur identité et notamment le service de radiodiffusion public, est directement pertinent puisque cela aide à éviter une situation où les minorités nationales se sentent obligées de défendre leurs intérêts par d'autres moyens moins acceptables.

D'une façon générale, la politique relative aux minorités au sein des sociétés de radiodiffusion doit découler d'une approche équilibrée et juste qui réconcilie d'une part les intérêts de la minorité et de la majorité avec les intérêts individuels et collectifs tout en les réconciliant d'autre part avec les intérêts de l'État. Très souvent, une telle politique nécessite l'association de trois éléments. Premièrement, les sociétés de radiodiffusion et l'État devraient avoir bien soin d'éviter la discrimination fondée sur les origines ethniques dans toutes leurs politiques. Deuxièmement, ils devraient s'efforcer de promouvoir la tolérance, l'acceptation mutuelle et la non-discrimination dans la société en général. Troisièmement enfin, les producteurs de programmes pour les minorités devraient disposer de suffisamment de moyens pour maintenir et développer leurs langues, cultures et traditions sans que pour autant la majorité sente qu'une discrimination s'opère contre elle. Ceci est particulièrement pertinent en ce qui concerne la radiodiffusion ethnique.

Les émissions en langue minoritaire font partie de la radiodiffusion nationale mais afin qu'elles survivent, il incombe aux compagnies de radiodiffusion nationales de diffuser des programmes sur les langues minoritaires à travers tout le pays. Reconnaissant que la majorité a besoin d'être informée sur la vie des communautés minoritaires et d'y prendre part, la EEBA va augmenter ses programmes en langue majoritaire sur les minorités afin de consolider l'identité et la dignité de celles-ci. D'une façon générale, la radiodiffusion en langue majoritaire contribuera également à mieux faire connaître la minorité. La EEBA n'a pas l'intention d'être une institution bureaucratique inutile de plus; elle exercera des pressions à divers endroits dans l'intérêt de la radiodiffusion en langue minoritaire comme par exemple auprès des personnes chargées de rédiger la législation gouvernant les médias afin qu'elle soit conforme à l'esprit de la législation de l'U.E. et celle d'autres institutions paneuropéennes supranationales dans ce domaine. Elle se concentrera sur l'éducation et la formation de créateurs de programmes appropriés et les minorités ethniques afin de permettre de consolider et de diversifier les compétences culturelles et rédactionnelles dans le domaine de la création de programmes et de représenter les minorités et les questions ethniques de manière juste.

La radio et la télévision doivent s'efforcer de refléter la véritable réalité multiethnique de l'Europe. Pour ce faire, elles doivent briser des mythes, des murs bâtis sur l'ignorance, démolir des stéréotypes et commencer à refléter la part positive que les minorités contribuent à la vie sociale, économique, politique et, tout aussi important, culturelle de l'Europe. Demandons-nous si la fragmentation des publics créée par la diffusion numérique, le câble, les satellites et les systèmes informatiques en ligne présage la fragmentation de nos sociétés. Serait-il possible de créer une ségrégation électronique m- des communautés vivant dans le même espace mais ne communiquant pas entre elles ?

Ce scénario n'existe toutefois que dans le cerveau des prévisionnistes et des magnats des médias. Ces prophètes et manipulateurs des médias ne doivent pas oublier que les sociétés humaines existent en dehors de leur réalité virtuelle et ont la possibilité de transcender la technologie. Les nouveaux médias vont inévitablement changer l'idée que nous nous faisons du service public de radiodiffusion comme étant intégré dans une organisation nationale unique. Il faut qu'à l'avenir nous essayions d'obtenir de tous les fournisseurs réputés de services qu'ils s'engagent à prendre à leur compte, outre les recettes publicitaires et les produits des ventes, un élément de sercice public et une responsabilité sociale.

Mirko Bogata : EEBA, Sponheimerstr. 13, A-9010 Klagenfurt, Autriche.

Une nouvelle chaîne de télévision en irlandais en 1996.

Elle s'appelle *Teilifís na Gaeilge* (*TnaG*). Entièrement en irlandais, la nouvelle chaîne de télévision commencera à émettre le 31 octobre 1996. 90% des foyers de la République pourront d'emblée recevoir les 3 heures d'émission quotidiennes. La diffusion sera également accessible aux habitants du Nord de l'Île.

L'État irlandais finance intégralement l'installation de cette chaîne publique. La mise en place d'un nouveau réseau de diffusion coûtera 16 millions de livres. La chaîne recherche des financements complémentaires au budget de fonctionnement annuel de 10 millions de Livres assuré par l'État. *TnaG* se limitera à la diffusion. Elle sous-traitera la production de programmes avec des producteurs indépendants et le service public anglophone RTE. En attendant un cadre législatif lui garantissant une entière autonomie, *TnaG* sera administrée comme une filiale décentralisée de RTE. Son siège social est fixé à Baile na hAbhan dans le Connemara.

Les responsables de la future chaîne insistent sur sa volonté d'enracinement local et populaire. Sa vocation gaélique doit impliquer une philosophie différente de celle des télévisions métropolitaines et anglophones. La télévision entend rester proche de la vie quotidienne de ses auditeurs et des communautés irlandophones. Cette proximité se traduira aussi en termes économiques. 30 emplois directs seront créés au siège tandis que les emplois indirects, hautement qualifiés et technologiquement innovants, sont estimés entre 150 et 250. Ces retombées positives concerneront surtout des régions économiquement défavorisées.

En plus de la production irlandaise, la nouvelle chaîne étendra sa diffusion aux créations d'autres télévisions européennes ignorées par les chaînes anglophones. Les programmes ainsi diffusés seront doublés en irlandais et sous-titrés en anglais. *TnaG* souhaite par ailleurs privilégier des accords de coopération avec d'autres chaînes européennes, en particulier de langues minoritaires. À cette double dimension gaélique et européenne correspond une préoccupation pédagogique. C'est pour cette raison que la nouvelle chaîne s'adressera en particulier au jeune public auquel elle destine un tiers de sa programmation. La télévision constitue en effet un moyen puissant de garantir l'avenir de la langue en offrant un meilleur environnement social et culturel en irlandais à la jeune génération.

Alors que Dublin accueillera en 1996 les négociations sur l'avenir des institutions européennes, les promoteurs de *TnaG* placent résolument la naissance de la chaîne au cours de cette même année, sous le signe d'une Irlande et d'une Europe fières de la richesse de leur diversité culturelle et linguistique.

Christian Demeuré-Vallée

Publications

«Ethnische Minderheiten in Europa. Ein Lexikon» (Les minorités ethniques en Europe) Klemens Ludwig. Publié par Beck, Munich. 1995, 220 pages. Prix : 22 DM. ISBN 3-406-39215-6. Cette publication décrit 40 minorités ethniques et peuples sans États et les problèmes inhérents à une existence dépourvue des droits linguistiques et culturels fondamentaux. Le livre est divisé en deux parties: «Peuples sans États» et «Minorités ethniques». L'introduction donne un aperçu de la façon dont de telles situations se produisent et comment elles aboutissent à des conflits et à la guerre lorsque l'intolérance ne respecte pas le droit à la différence.

«Langues régionales et relations Transfrontalières en Europe», compilé par Henri Goetschy et André-Louis Sanguin. Publié par l'Harmattan, 75005 Paris. ISBN 2-7384-3677-3. 318 pages. Un recueil d'une trentaine de contributions au colloque international «Langues régionales et relations transfrontalières en Europe» qui s'est tenu à Colmar, en Alsace, en juin 1994. Après un avant-propos et une introduction exposant brièvement la situation des langues minoritaires en France, quatre chapitres, divisés en sept ou huit sections chacun, traitent des thèmes suivants : langue régionale et État centralisé; langues régionales, bilinguisme et frontières; langues minoritaires et peuple; et les relations transfrontalières. Le dernier chapitre, qui a pour titre «Conclusion», s'interroge sur la question suivante: Langues régionales, une occasion pour une nouvelle Europe ?

«Motier de Gallo/Dictionnaire de Gallo» (dictionnaire français/gallo-gallo/français), publié par Bertaeyn Galeizz, Le Bourg, F-35160 Le Verger, Bretagne (tél.: +33 99 07 45 22). 222 pages, prix: 130FF + 20FF de frais d'envoi. Peut être commandé directement auprès de l'éditeur, à l'adresse ci-dessus. Suite au regain d'intérêt qui se produit depuis une vingtaine d'années pour le gallo, une langue qui est parlée l'est nord de la Bretagne, ceci est le premier dictionnaire français-gallo/gallo-français à être publié. La section gallo-français contient 2 700 termes, accompagnés de la description de leur prononciation, leur catégorie grammaticale, leurs synonymes en français, une définition du mot et des exemples de son emploi. La section français-gallo comprend 2 500 termes avec leurs synonymes en gallo.

«Language International World Directory: Sociolinguistic and Language Planning Organisations», compilé par Francesc Domínguez et Núria López. Publié par John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam/Philadelphia. 530 pages. ISBN 90-272-1951-6. Traduit du catalan (non publié) en anglais et produit avec le soutien financier de l'Institut de sociolinguistique catalane du gouvernement catalan, cet ouvrage est, comme l'indique son titre, un répertoire des organisations qui s'occupent de sociolinguistique, de planification linguistique et de promotion des langues à travers l'Europe. Il concerne aussi bien les organisations publiques que privées aux niveaux régional, national et international. La publication comprend aussi un sommaire linguistique avec des cartes ainsi qu'une bibliographie détaillée.

«Internationales und Europäisches Volksgruppenrecht», dirigé par Hannes Tretter, 160 pages. Publié par Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum, Teinfaltstraße 4, A-1040 Vienne. Cette publication, la huitième dans la collection *Manuel des Minorités ethniques en Autriche*, rassemble les textes intégraux de documents légaux ayant trait à la protection des minorités ethniques. Les institutions concernées sont les Nations Unies, le Conseil de l'Europe, l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe et l'Union européenne. En tout, les textes de 37 documents y figurent en allemand.

«Diciounari Francés Prouvençau» - Jules Coupier, publié par l'Association Dictionnaire Français-Provençal, sous la direction de Philippe Blanchet (Université de Rennes). 1512 pages, prix: 570FF. En vente directement auprès de Édisud, La calade, RN7, F-13090 Aix, France. Un dictionnaire détaillé français-provençal dans lequel figurent plus de 60 000 entrées en français.

«Dal Greco Antico al Greco Moderno in Calabria e in Basilica» (Du grec ancien au grec moderne en Calabre et en Basilicate)- Franco Mosini. Publié par Giuseppe Pontari Editore, Via Sbarre inferiori 40, I-89129 Reggio Calabria, Italie. 143 pages. ISBN 88-86046-02-2. Un historique et une description détaillée du grec dans le sud de l'Italie.

«El Aragonés hoy-Informe sobre la situación actual de la lengua aragonesa» - Francho Nagore Llaín. Publié par Publicazions d'o Consello d'a Fabla Aragonesa, Trestallo Postal 147, E-22080 Uesca. 120 pages. ISBN 84-86036-29-1. Une description de la situation actuelle de l'aragonais, une langue qui, selon les estimations, est parlée par quelque 30 000 personnes dans quelques vallées pyrénéennes espagnoles. Des résumés du texte original en espagnol sont présentés en anglais, en allemand, en esperanto et en français.

«Make it New: An Anthology of Twenty-one Years of Writing in lallans» - Sous la direction de Neil R. MacCallum et David Purves, publié par Mercat Press, Edinburgh. Prix: £9.99, 178 pages, ISBN 1873644. 62 morceaux choisis, en vers et en prose, dans la langue scots composent ce recueil, première anthologie de textes contemporains en scots.

«Language Politics in Scotland» - Steve Murdoch. Publié par Aberdeen University Scots Leid Quorum, Luthuli House 50/52, Aberdeen AB2 3DS, Écosse. 29 pages, ISBN 1 900517 00 0. Une information de base sur les langues d'Écosse à partir d'enquêtes réalisées l'année dernière.

Diarmaid Breathnach

Nouvelles du **Bureau**

Frise septentrionale et Saterland - le frison entre mer et marais

Ce troisième titre dans la collection *Série Langues européennes* publiée par le Centre d'information du Bureau à Bruxelles, est consacré à la Frise septentrionale et au Saterland, en Allemagne. Disponible en anglais, en allemand et en français, il est en vente directement au Centre d'Information de Bruxelles (voir en dernière page) et coûte 5 écus. Les auteurs de ce petit livre en couleur de 50 pages sont Dr. Ommo Wilts (section sur le frison septentrional) et Dr. Marron C. Fort (section sur le frison du Saterland).

Le livre présente tout d'abord ces deux variétés du frison: le frison septentrional (friisk) qui est parlé par quelque 8 000 personnes dans le Schleswig-Holstein, dans le district rural de Nordfriesland ainsi que sur certaines îles et le frison du Saterland ou frison oriental (seeltersk) qui est parlé par 2 000 personnes en Basse-Saxe, dans les villages de Ramsloh, Strucklingen et Scharrel, dans le district de Cloppenburg, en Allemagne. Le frison occidental, qui est parlé aux Pays-Bas, n'est pas inclus ici. Le livre aborde tous les aspects de la langue, de son histoire à son avenir en passant par son développement actuel. *50 pages, 5 écus, ISBN: 90-74851-27-4. Centre d'information de Bruxelles, Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues.*

Base de données d'activités culturelles 3 : Groupes de musique

Cette base de données fait partie d'un grand projet entrepris par le Centre d'Information de Bruxelles qui a pour objectif de fournir des informations sur les activités culturelles des communautés de langue moins répandue afin d'essayer de les rapprocher. Cette collection, la troisième de la série, rassemble des données élémentaires sur quelque 600 groupes de musique qui s'expriment en langues moins répandues à travers 30 communautés linguistiques de l'Union européenne. On y trouve des détails tels que le genre de musique que joue un tel groupe, sa spécialisation, les membres du groupe etc. On considère que la musique, tout comme le théâtre, joue un rôle important dans la transmission des langues et des traditions culturelles consacrées des diverses communautés linguistiques. La liste comprend également des adresses pour se mettre en contact et est bilingue français/anglais.

Wolfgang Jenniges

Présenter la dimension **européenne**

Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues va mener un projet éducatif visant à présenter la Dimension européenne aux enfants de 9 à 14 ans à partir du mois de septembre 1996.

L'objectif est de transmettre aux élèves le concept de l'Europe, au sens le plus large du terme, par l'intermédiaire d'une langue moins répandue et à travers le regard d'un locuteur d'une langue moins répandue. Le produit est flexible et se prête à de nombreuses interprétations. Il sera possible d'intégrer le projet à la plupart des programmes scolaires européens. Le produit comprendra, entre autres, une introduction détaillée pour l'enseignant sous forme de manuel, la description d'écoles et de régions sélectionnées dans des communautés de langue moins répandue, des tableaux muraux, des cartes et des photos.

Ce projet pilote unique concernera d'abord trois de nos langues : le gallois, l'irlandais et le gaélique d'Écosse mais on a l'intention de chercher à obtenir le financement nécessaire pour, à l'avenir, étendre l'expérience à d'autres langues. Un excellent groupe de travail composé d'experts pédagogiques de ces régions prépare cet ensemble de matériel depuis un an.

Formation d'enseignants et langues moins répandues

Formation d'enseignants, langues moins répandues et paix, tel sera le thème d'un séminaire organisé par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues en collaboration avec le projet Linguapax de l'UNESCO et le ministère de l'Éducation du grand-duché de Luxembourg et qui aura lieu du 28 au 30 novembre 1996. Le but est de rassembler des spécialistes en la matière afin de se servir du travail qui est fait dans diverses communautés pour évoluer, progresser et se développer. On compte conclure avec une publication qui identifiera les meilleurs pratiques et modèles dans ce secteur important de l'éducation.

Un inventaire des systèmes éducatifs bilingues dans l'Union européenne

La première base de données de systèmes éducatifs bilingues dans l'Union européenne est sur le point d'être publiée et distribuée. Ces données concernant divers systèmes éducatifs bilingues pourront non seulement servir de références utiles mais devraient également être des sources de coopération et d'échange d'informations pour les institutions pertinentes. Les recherches et l'établissement de l'inventaire ont été effectués par Anne-Sophie Oudin, ancienne Responsable de l'Éducation du Bureau à Luxembourg.

Kaleidoscope 1996

Kaleidoscope est un programme de la Communauté européenne qui a récemment été adopté par le Parlement européen et le Conseil et sera exécuté par la Commission. Le programme vise, par le biais de coopérations, à encourager la création artistique et culturelle et à promouvoir la connaissance et la diffusion de la culture et de la vie culturelle des peuples européens en soutenant les projets culturels ayant une dimension européenne, c'est à dire ceux auxquels des organisations d'au moins trois États membres sont associées.

Demandes à soumettre à la Commission, Programme Kaleidoscope, DGX/D1 Service de la Culture, rue de la Loi 102, Salle 4/02, B-1049 Bruxelles, avant le 14 juin 1996.

Mared Roberts

Augmentation du nombre d'irlandophones

Le volume 7 du recensement de 1991 de l'Irlande montre que le nombre de personnes parlant l'irlandais dans la République est passé de 1 042 701 en 1986 à 1 095 830 en 1991 ou, en pourcentages, de 31,1% à 32,5%. C'est dans le Connaught, la province la plus occidentale, que se trouve le pourcentage le plus élevé d'irlandophones (40,2%). Du point de vue de la structure d'âge, les chiffres montrent que ce sont les jeunes âgés de 15 à 19 ans qui parlent le plus la langue (54,8%). Il ne faut pas oublier que sans doute plus de 90% des gens en Irlande ayant des compétences en irlandais sont des bilingues secondaires qui ont acquis leur connaissance de la langue au cours de leur éducation. Le nombre des bilingues primaires, c'est-à-dire ceux pour qui l'irlandais est la première langue, ne dépasse probablement pas les 100 000. Les chiffres du recensement de 1991 seront une source d'encouragement pour les responsables chargés d'établir *Teilifís na Gaeilge* (voir page 9), la première chaîne de télévision en irlandais du pays, car ils prouvent qu'il y a une quantité considérable de personnes ayant au moins quelques compétences actives dans la langue et susceptibles de former une audience pour ce nouveau service.

Dónall Ó Riagáin

Événements

VII^e^ Festival audiovisuel des minorités culturelles en Europe, 18-20 octobre 1996, Aixe-sur-Vienne, France. L'occasion pour les créateurs de programmes professionnels et amateurs de montrer leur travail à d'autres personnes uvrant dans ce domaine et provenant d'autres régions de langue moins répandue. Le matériel est accepté dans la langue originale avec des sous-titres en français si possible. Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à : *Festival audiovisuel, Mairie, F-87700 Aixe-sur-Vienne, France.*

Deuxième Conférence européenne sur l'éducation eurorégionale transnationale, 10-11 octobre 1996, Maastricht, Pays-Bas. Une conférence de deux jours pour tous ceux qui s'occupent de ou s'intéressent à l'éducation transfrontalière au niveau eurorégionale. Une attention particulière sera portée aux barrières linguistiques et aux différences interculturelles et à la façon dont elles sont traitées. Plus plus d'informations, s'adresser à : *The Netherlands Language Academy, Boschstraat 45, NL-6211 AT Maastricht, Pays-Bas; tel : + 31 432 3259400; fax : + 31 432 3211986.*

Journées des minorités sur les Îles Åland, 16-20 octobre 1996, Mariehamn, Åland, Finlande. Conférence qui abordera des questions très variées concernant les minorités telles que les défis au sein de la politique de la Mer baltique, la construction de structures de paix, la langue et l'identité, la protection des minorités, la neutralisation et l'autonomie, etc. Organisée par *l'Institut pour la paix des Îles Åland, BP 85, Fin-22101 Mariehamn, Finlande; tel : + 358 28 15570; fax : + 358 28 21026.*

3^e^ Conférence européenne sur les programmes d'immersion, septembre 1996, Barcelone, Catalogne. Ce congrès visera à créer un forum pour faciliter l'échange d'information sur les programmes d'immersion et les ressources et procédures qui ont été développées par les enseignants et les éducateurs. On étudiera l'apport des programmes d'immersion aux expériences européennes et jusqu'à quel point les méthodes appliquées actuellement en Europe enrichissent de tels programmes. Organisé par *l'Institut européen de l'enseignement par immersion, Universitat de Barcelona, Passeig de la Vall d'Hebron 171, Barcelona, Catalonia.*

Contact Bulletin est publie par le Bureau europeen pour les langues moins repandues et est subventionne par la Commission de l'Union europeenne. Les opinions qui y sont exprimees ne sont pas obligatoirement celles du Bureau ou de la Commission. Nous serions heureux de recevoir vos opinions, lettres, articles, représentations graphiques... Veuillez nous les adresser à :

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L'objectif du Bureau europeen pour les langues moins répandues est de sauvegarder et de promouvoir les langues autochtones moins répandues de l'Union européenne ainsi que leurs cultures. C'est un organisme indépendant enregistré en Irlande en société à responsabilité limitée sans capital actions et en AI en Belgique. Il travaille en collaboration étroite avec la Commission européenne et le Parlement européen, le Conseil de l'Europe et des institutions des Etats membres, à la poursuite de son but. Le Bureau est alimenté par des subventions provenant de la Commission européenne, du Gouvernement irlandais, du Gouvernement national de Luxembourg, du Gouvernement provincial de la Frise et de la Communauté germanophone en Belgique. Des locaux sont gracieusement mis à la disposition du Centre d'information de Bruxelles par la Communauté francophone en Belgique

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An Biúró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana
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Bureau Delegation meets with **President** of **European Cultural Council**

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Above Photo From L to R:
J. Krol (Fryslân), P. Ó Flatharta (IRL), B. Brezigar (Vice-President EBLUL), D. Ó Riagáin (Secretary General), M. D. Higgins (Irish Culture Minister), A.W. Jones (EBLUL President), M. Alkain (Brussels Information Centre), C. Ní Lochlainn and D. Breathnach (Dublin Head Office)

A delegation from the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages met with Irish Culture Minister Michael D. Higgins, current President of the European Cultural Council on October 17th last in Dublin. The delegation congratulated the Minister on the initiatives he has taken so far during the Irish Presidency of the EU and expressed its full agreement with his expressed view that culture should be afforded the same priority as economic affairs.

Revision of the Maastricht Treaty

The revision of the Maastricht Treaty as part of the IGC (Intergovernmental Conference) process and the importance of enshrining in any new treaty recognition of, and protection for, linguistic and cultural diversity was stressed by the Bureau. The Minister was informed of the Bureau's preparation of a series of amendments (see *Contact Bulletin Vol 13 No 1)* which it felt should be made to the Treaty and which were sent to all members of the Reflection Committee preparing the IGC, including the Foreign Ministers of all the member states. The Bureau's proposals were also sent to over 100 MEPs and members of the Committee of the Regions.

Budget Line and Legal Act for Lesser Used Languages

The delegation also pointed out that Budget Line B3-1006 [lesser used languages] which provides EU funding for projects aimed at supporting Irish and other lesser used languages, was under threat. This budget line was opened in 1982 by the European Parliament for projects aimed at promoting lesser used/regional or minority languages . The line has now grown to 4mECU. This is only a nominal sum however and is quite inadequate to fund the necessary measures to conserve and develop lesser used languages and their attendant cultures at European level. But following a decision by the three main European institutions that all budget lines should have a *legal act* to justify them there is now great fear of threat to the line. The delegation asked the Minister therefore to ensure that the Irish presidency lend its full political weight as President of the Cultural Council to efforts to have the budget line increased and to ensure that steps be initiated to prepare the required legal act.

Meeting of Language Promotional Agencies

The Minister informed the delegation of his decision to hold a meeting of official state language boards and language promotional agencies sometime during the Irish presidency. The Bureau was particularly pleased with this decision as it first put forward such a proposal eight years ago. There is a lot of scope for these agencies to share information and experiences and to investigate the possibility of closer collaboration in pursuit of common goals. In particular, the Bureau feels that such official agencies might make joint submissions to European institutions concerning their languages and collaborate with each other in supporting and developing research projects which would provide more complete and accurate information on language shift and language promotion than is at present available. Readers of *Contact Bulletin* will have the opportunity to read about the outcome of this meeting in the next edition of our newsletter.

FL026370

Regional Languages and Democracy

Newspaper readers who spent time thinking about a recent article in the press on the Netherlands' ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (see also CB Vol 13. Nr 2) are small in number. It is well known that this Charter, coming from the Council of Europe, gives remarkable protection and even more remarkable promotion to speakers of lesser used languages in European countries which signed and then ratified the document. The Netherlands, after Norway, Finland and Hungary is the fourth country to do so. Others are ready to follow suit and we look forward to the Charter coming into force once it has been ratified by five member states of the Council of Europe.

A Story from Belgium

One could well wonder at Belgium's position in this whole affair. The French Community took a pioneering step by recognising in its decree of 14 December 1990 the existence of endogenous regional languages along with French, the official language of the Community. But it must be made known that Belgium is a country of complex institutions and, when the question arose of Belgium's signature being added to this important document, the three Communities were asked for their views. The French Community expressed full agreement as the text strongly reflected its own policy in regard to regional languages. The Flemish Community let it be known that it wouldn't oppose a document that didn't concern it because in its eyes nobody spoke regional languages in the region over which it has competence (i.e. Flanders); what were spoken here were dialects and these are not included in the Charter. As regards the Germanophone Community, it more or less towed the same line saying that *Hochdeutsch* (standard German) was all that existed in their eyes. The Federal Government had some doubts, emanating for the most part from the Justice Ministry or from legal experts who wondered what one would do if an accused requested a court case be heard in Picard or Walloon. Apart therefore from a few unconvincing objections the fact is that there is no opposition as such in Belgium to signing the Charter but more a form of indifference. One has to take into account therefore that those who no longer dare to openly express their opposition to our regional languages have adopted a wait-and-see attitude, telling themselves that these archaic speech forms will end up no longer being used and that patience is a better weapon than open hostility.

There's Language and there's language

Our Dutch neighbours to the North with their pragmatism and their sense of democracy have decided to move forward and to ratify the Charter by declaring Frisian and Low-Saxon as minority languages. As regards Frisian one will hardly be surprised to see it included; it is a language spoken in the North of the Netherlands and in some small linguistic islets in Germany. But Low-Saxon! It is certainly spoken on the Eastern fringes of the Netherlands, but Germany is where it is mainly spoken and there it is considered to be a straightforward dialect. And here we find ourselves in an almost ludicrous situation where a form of speech is considered in one country to be a regional language -and worthy of protection under the Charter- and in another country to be a plain old dialect about to die along with those old people who speak it.

Euromosaic

In effect, in most European countries the tendency is to label as regional languages 'those languages which are clearly linguistically different from the official language of the state'. In France for example one would regard Basque, Breton, and Catalan clearly as regional languages while Picard or Gallo are regarded as French dialects or even worse dialects emanating from the French language. They do not have the status of language and cannot therefore benefit from measures in the Charter which are designed to protect and promote.

A recent report commissioned by the EU Commission, the objective of which is to establish the present situation of minority linguistic groups, entitled *Euromosaic* has just been published see pg. 7). The results of the reports findings are revealing, to say the least.

One could find it strange to see Corsican included but not Sicilian and to see a kind reference to Mirandese but no reference to Aragonese or Asturian. Cornish, a Celtic language which went out of use in the 18C, is included. According to sources it is spoken today again by between 200 and 1,000 speakers. If one is to include a language of this type then one should also have thought of Walloon, Picard, Jurasian, Norman, which are still spoken by hundreds of thousands of native speakers, and which have thriving literatures and well-structured representative organisations which could easily have been consulted in the preparation of this study. Let us be blissfully optimistic and put this down to a totally non-intentioned lacuna which will be filled in the near future.

The question asked by promoters of the "real" regional languages is where does it stop if one keeps adding to the list of regional languages. And according to them worse is yet to come when countries from Eastern Europe become part of the Union. In such an event it all seems to boil down to a decision by manipulators with calculators rather than by language planners. There are those of us who poke fun at the term 'regional endogenous language'. The term 'endogenous' however is used in all sciences including linguistics and has the advantage in that it avoids the prejudicial term 'dialect' with all its different meanings. It also helps to stem those who wish to continue speaking the 'language of their heart' from developing dialectal inferiority complexes which have done so much damage to our linguistic heritage.

Admittedly, those who speak these languages -with the exception of but a few- do not ask that they be used in administration or justice. These are men and women who are simply claiming their right to speak, read and write these languages as they please; speakers who simply seek the right to pass on their linguistic heritage to their children without having to worry about semantics, political fiction or even some sort of revengeful historical atonement. More often than not they refuse to become embroiled in the linguistic affairs of others and in the majority of cases they express their demands without bitterness towards their bigger sister languages. Most of these speakers are bilingual and what they would wish for is that such bilingualism never develop into a diglossia which would inevitably lead to the disappearance of the little sister. To admit to this reality is to cede to a spirit of democracy but it does seem that a good number of people who are concerned with presenting an image of openness and tolerance in all situations assume an authoritative attitude when it comes to language, based on prejudices or worse still contempt, for what to their non-linguistic eyes is not the norm.

Actually, should one not pay tribute to our neighbours in the Netherlands for their well understood linguistic liberalism? Without realising it they have just lit the fuse, or if you prefer a less dramatic metaphor, have pushed the first domino.

Jean-Luc Fauconnier

Minority Language Revival and Preservation in the Russian Federation - An example of Vepsian

Vepsian, a Finno-Ugric language spoken by approximately 12,000 people, provides an interesting model of language preservation in Russia. Speakers of the language inhabit three settlements in the Republic of Karelia, and in areas of the Leningrad and the Vologda regions. They were subjected to intense linguistic and ethnic assimilation during the Soviet period and were registered as Russians in state censuses. In recent years however, Vepsians are expressing a renewed interest in their language and culture manifested for the most part in the introduction of the language to the education system. In Karelia the Vepsian National Region has been instituted. It consists of three villages: Shoutjarn (Sheltozen), Kalajogi (Rybrena) and Shoksha. Each village has a secondary school.

What must be taken into account when introducing Vepsian to the educational system is the fact that all Vepsian children have for the most part been brought up in a Russian-speaking environment both inside and outside the home. When compiling new textbooks and manuals in the language one must bear this social reality in mind. Furthermore, the language is also being standardised on the basis of one of the three local dialects. The situation in these regions of the Russian Federation where more than one language is spoken is such that in some areas speakers of the major language are a minority while in other areas the situation is the reverse. More often than not however all communication takes place in the major language i.e. Russian. Speakers are not generally bilingual and the aim therefore is to provide through the educational system total bilingualism in these areas. Vepsian classes are voluntarily attended by all pupils, irrespective of their ethnic origin. This is the result of long hard work to raise public opinion in favour of the Vepsian language.

The question is often put as to why one seeks to introduce into the educational system a language which is hardly ever spoken in the home. One of the reasons is the renewed interest in the language and an increasing acceptance of the fact that every language, irrespective of the number of speakers, has unique cultural, historical and linguistic values. The death of a language is a loss to the community as a whole; the introduction of Vepsian into the school curriculum will help to ensure that the language becomes stronger and continues as a living organism. At a Vepsian secondary school in Karelia where, in addition to the introduction of Vepsian classes, first twice and then three times a week, elderly speakers are brought into the school to work with qualified teachers who are not highly proficient in the language. These fluent speakers pass on folk tales, old sayings, stories etc to the children. They also work with children of different ethnic origin outside of school hours and especially during summer holidays in teaching them to communicate in the language in different social situations. Vepsian language teachers are trained at the Petrozavodsk Pedagogical University and Kazrelian State University.

Generally this work depends on the good-will of enthusiasts for the language as adequate financing from the Russian Federation is not forthcoming. In the future work will continue in seeking finance for projects to promote the language but a first step has now been taken.

Professor M.V. Diachkov Institute of Ethnic Problems in Education, Moscow.

Pre-primary Education in **Multicultural Settings**

Cooperation between scholars and educationalists is always welcome but even more so when a country is going through a critical period of its history. Such was the case of former Yugoslavia in the early nineties. *Language Learning for European Citizenship* was the title given to a programme launched by the Council of Europe's "Council for Cultural Cooperation" in January 1989. As part of this programme a group of educational and minority language experts presented a project entitled "Developing Bilingualism at Pre-school age" which was later presented at a workshop entitled "Learning and Teaching Languages in Pre-school and Primary Bilingual Contexts" hosted by Trinity College, Carmarthen, Wales in 1991. As a result of the political turmoil around this time the Committee of Ministers suspended all cooperation between the then Yugoslav authorities and the Council of Europe. The group therefore decided to continue working on their project trying to mould it to the new political situation which was emerging at the time. One year later in 1992 a new project on pre-primary education in multicultural settings was set up in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Novi Sad (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). As a direct result of research carried out for the project and cooperation between kindergarten teachers and educationalists involved in the project, the Serbian Ministry for Education introduced a new programme for preschool education in pre- schools throughout the province of Vojvodina.

Vojvodina is a multiethnic province situated in the north of Serbia with a population of approximately 2 million people made up of different ethnolinguistic groups: Serbs enjoying the status of national majority, and Hungarians, Slovaks, Rumanians and Rusyns enjoying the status of national minorities. The province has a very developed network of institutionalised pre-primary education where children belonging to national minorities are given the opportunity of being educated in their own language. The laying down of conditions and the production of the curriculum for the various minority language situations is the sole responsibility of the Serbian Ministry of Education which has prepared a manual for kindergarten teachers involved in the education of minority language children. It includes the following aims:

-promoting the socialisation of children according to the characteristics of a multicultural and multilingual community;
-maintaining and developing national and cultural identity;
-developing communicative and other linguistic skills in the child's mother tongue;
-developing 'additive bilingualism' i.e. bilingual experiences which provide the advantages of a second language without any negative impact on the development of the mother tongue;
-developing positive attitudes towards members of other nationalities and their cultures.

Melanie Mikes

Oriol Ramon (CIEMEN)

Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights:

Responding to a need.

It is true to say that declarations of principles are useful in so far as the principles proclaimed therein can be put into practice. However, it is also true that without clear principles and concrete suggestions as to their practical implementation, results will not be achieved. This is self-evident, at least for those of us who have for years been working in the field of linguistics. One cannot underestimate the need for a *Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights*, written in the same vein as the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, outlining points of reference for the building of a more just, harmonious and democratic society with a more humane quality of life through the expression of linguistic rights. Such a declaration would complement the *Declaration on Human Rights*.

Two main objectives were considered in the drafting of a recently published text on a *Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights*: firstly it needed to be a clear, coherent and synthetic formulation of linguistic rights using previous studies, research, proposals, declarations etc , and secondly the widest possible consensus needed to be reached before making such a document public. Once these two objectives had been achieved, it was necessary to ensure that the text was brought to the attention of UNESCO so as to avoid it becoming nothing more than a mere expression of intentions and goodwill, without any repercussions in real life; and furthermore one also had to ensure that it would be discussed and its contents eventually approved by the UN. Although the initiative was launched late in 1993 by the *Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee of PEN Club International* (with its headquarters in Barcelona), CIEMEN, a Barcelona based organisation specialising in linguistic rights issues over the past twenty years, was brought into the project in early 1994. Since then, CIEMEN has been playing a prominent role throughout the process. Indeed, until the signing of the Declaration in June 1996, CIEMEN has been primarily involved in contacting experts on linguistics, sociolinguistics and legislation not only to assist in the drafting of the text but also to obtain the consensus of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) throughout the world with an interest in linguistic rights.

It has been a lengthy and complicated task (over sixty meetings of experts and thirteen drafts of the document), but the end-product of the work has been gratifying. Not only due to its outcome, which is a clear expression of agreement between many different parties, but also due to new networks of contacts, communication and effective solidarity between NGOs throughout the world with linguistic rights as a common theme. In addition, varying bodies such as the Autonomous Government of Catalonia, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and world-wide organisations such as UNESCO, have all responded with assistance and cooperation.

UNESCO's response to the Declaration deserves special mention however: not only has it given moral and technical support but the Director General's personal representative (Mr. I. Issakson) was the first to sign it during an academic ceremony co-chaired by UNESCO which was held last June at the University of Barcelona, and which was attended by almost two hundred organizations and personalities from all over the world. It should be added that the Director General himself Mr. F. Mayor Zaragoza will shortly be receiving the text at his Paris headquarters. UNESCO, in statements made by Mr. Issakson and other members who were present at the ceremony has publicly committed itself to giving priority to the Declaration during its (UNESCO's) discussions on linguistic policy in preparation for the presentation of an application to the UN requesting them to proceed with the drafting and passing of a universal *Agreement or Convention of Linguistic Rights*, a process which could take between five and eight years.

Meanwhile, a *World Conference of Linguistic Rights' Secretariat* has been set up which will continue to develop this process which will culminate in the above-mentioned Agreement or Convention.

Aureli Argemi, Secretary General of CIEMEN Promoting member, coordinator and writer of the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights.

Extract from the Declaration: Article 3

1. This Declaration considers the following to be inalienable personal rights which may be exercised in any situation:
the right to be recognised as a member of a language community;
the right to use one's own language in private and in public;
the right to the use of one's own name;
the right to interrelate and associate with other members of one's language community of origin;
the right to maintain and develop one's own culture
and all the other rights related to language which are recognised in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the same date.

2. This Declaration considers that the collective rights of language groups may include the following, in addition to the rights attributed to the members of language groups in the foregoing paragraph, and in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 2.2:
the right for their own language and culture to be taught;
the right of access to cultural services
the rights to an equitable presence of their language and culture in the communications media;
the right to receive attention in their own language from government bodies and in socio-economic relations.

3. The aforementioned rights of persons and language groups must in no way hinder the interrelation of such persons or groups with the host language community or their integration into that community. Nor must they restrict the rights of the host community or its members to the full public use of the community's own language throughout its territorial space.

Copies of the full text of the Declaration are available in French, English, Catalan, and Spanish from: CIEMEN, Rocafort 242 bis, E-08029 Barcelona, Catalonia.

Photo above: Oriol Ramón of CIEMEN giving the key note address at the conference

In Brief

A.G. van Hamel Society for Celtic Studies

The **van Hamel Society** was set up to support and to promote Celtic studies, especially in the Netherlands as well as to stimulate a wide public interest in all matters Celtic. Founded in 1991 it works independently of any university or research institute and is based in Utrecht, where the University has its Celtic department. It is run by a board of seven under the patronage of Emeritus Prof. Dr. Maartje Draak.

To achieve its aims the Society tries to bring Dutch Celticists and specialists from other disciplines who have dealings with Celtic matters in touch with one another and to spread knowledge of the Celtic languages and cultures. Furthermore, it organises once a year the *Keltish Colloquium* and since 1993 a specialist of international renown has delivered a lecture on a topic of Celtic interest. Visiting scholars are also occasionally invited to lecture.

A newsletter, *Mededelingen van de Stichting A.G. van Hamel voor keltische Studies*, is published quarterly and is sent to institutions and libraries of international importance for Celtic studies and can be exchanged with periodicals of various sister organisations abroad. Important new publications are also listed and frequently reviewed. A successful course in the Manx language was organised last August and was attended by 14 students from the Netherlands (see CB 13.2). Contrary to reports in the last edition of *Contact Bulletin* this course is not organised each Summer but it is intended to organise similar courses in other languages. **For further information contact:**

Lauran Toorians, Postbus 1427, NL-3500 BK Utrecht, NETHERLANDS

Establishment of the First Welsh Studies Centre in North America at the University of Rio Grande

The Centre emerged as a result of the North American Association for the Study of Welsh Culture and History [NAASWCH] which was established in 1995. Its first director will be Dr. Megan Lloyd PhD, Assistant Professor at the English Department, University of Rio Grande. She is a descendant of the Welsh people who settled in Ohio during the 1810s in an area very close to the present university campus.

Members of the Society's Advisory Board include: Ned Thomas, University of Wales Press and a member of EBLUL's Council R. Merfyn Jones, Head of History and Welsh History Dept., University of Wales, Bangor and Hazel Walford Davies, University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

According to Barry M. Dorsay EdH, President of Rio Grande, the aim of the centre is to form a network of academics who will carry out research into the Welsh language, its literature, history and culture as well as associated topical issues. By cooperating with Welsh institutions and libraries, the centre will organise conferences and debates to disseminate information about Wales.

The University of Rio Grande was established in 1876. It is a private institution which offers educational courses for periods of 4 years and is linked to the Rio Grande Community College.

***For more information, contact:* W. Pearson PhD, URG, Fulton House, 218 North College, Rio Grande, Ohio 45674 - 9900, USA. Tel: 614-245-7221 E-mail: <wpearson urgrgccedu>**

VIth meeting of the Regions in France

This annual interregional meeting took place once again this year in Saint-Malo (Brittany) where up to fifty people representing language and cultural institutions or organisations from the following regions took part: Alsace, Brittany, Catalonia, Corsica, Flanders, the Moselle region, Occitania and the Basque Country. Participants used the occasion to review the present situation of regional languages in radio and in teaching.

"Alongside with community radio which provides all if not some of its programmes in what are called regional languages, the state radio provides only a limited service or even no service whatsoever in our languages" according to Jean-Louis Latour, president of the *Conseil culturel de Bretagne* (the Breton Cultural Council), which organised this interregional encounter.

Participants at the event demanded that all families and all children be offered access to their regional languages through bilingual education with equal hours being allocated to both languages, in the public and private educational systems. They also drafted a letter to Jacques Santer calling for the European Union, following publication of the *Euromosaic* report (see page 7), to come up with a policy for linguistic minorities which would clearly preserve cultural diversity in Europe. Finally they appealed to the Irish Government to sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Getting there with Welsh

A poster and information pamphlet has been recently launched by the **Welsh Language Board** emphasising the advantages of taking NVQ (National Vocational Qualifications) courses in Welsh. The campaign targets students over 16 and adults who are already in the workplace and who are either Welsh speakers or Welsh learners who are interested in obtaining a NVQ which is a non-academic qualification in a wide variety of subjects such as Sport and Leisure, Business Administration and Broadcasting, Film and Video etc. The Welsh Language Act (1993) has stimulated an increasing need for people who are able to work in both languages and the pamphlet stresses that more and more employers from both small and large companies are advertising for staff who are able to offer bilingual skills.

Further information from:

Welsh Language Board, Press Office, tel: + 44 1222 224744.

e Bureau **News**

New Office Manager for BIC

A new Office Manager has been appointed for the Brussels Information Centre following the departure of Myriam Alkain who leaves the Bureau to join the choir of the Royal National Opera of Belgium - *La Monnaie / De Munt.* Expressing regret at Ms Alkain's departure, the Secretary General said that she had discharged her duties in an exemplary manner at all times. He wished her every success in her new career as an operatic singer. The newly appointed BIC Office Manager is Ivana Suhadolc, an Italian citizen of Slovene nationality. Ms. Suhadolc, up to the time of her appointment, worked with the RAI in Venice where she held an important editorial position, supervising the production of both radio and television news editions. As well as her native Slovene, Ms. Suhadolc speaks Italian, French, English and German. Secretary General, Dónall Ó Riagáin, expressed delight at the appointment. "*I'm sure she will bring new expertise and fresh perspectives to the Bureau*". Ms Suhadolc took up her new duties in early November 1996.

European Day for Lesser Used Languages

Saturday, 12 April 1997, has been chosen as the date for the first European Day for Lesser Used Languages. It is the hope of the Bureau that this will become an annual event, an occasion during which the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe will be brought to the attention of the greater European public. A poster and a brochure will be produced and a pan-European statement issued. During the same week, ***Euroschule 97*** will be held in Aabenraa, Denmark, which will give the day publicity among European school pupils. Furthermore, each linguistic community will be invited to organize an event.

Mared Roberts

Immersion and Multilingual Education in the European Union.

The research work and compilation of the inventory was carried out by Anne-Sophie Oudin, former Education Officer of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages in Luxembourg. Published by EBLUL Price: 10 Ecu + postage. This inventory brings together for the first time the organisations in charge of immersion or multilingual education programmes in the countries of the European Union in which teaching is conducted, at least partially, in a minority or a regional language. It was compiled with the aid of a questionnaire sent out to these organisations and, in some cases, to the schools themselves, following prior identification. The inventory does not simply list the names and addresses of the organisations in charge of teaching in regional or minority languages. It sets out, on one hand, the main characteristics of how the teaching operates for each language community, and on the other hand provides socio-linguistic data in an effort to put these into context.

Training of youth leaders of lesser used language communities youth organisations

A European Seminar on the training of youth leaders of youth organisations in lesser used language communities took place in Tinje/ Tainach in the Slovene community in Austria 12-16 June last. It was the third in a series of annual youth seminars organised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. Participants from over 20 minority communities took part, among whom were the youth representatives of the member state committees of the Bureau and the Bureau's youth advisory committee.

"Training" was the theme of this year's youth conference. The youth advisory committee sought the assistance of a professional youth trainer, Mark Taylor, in the organisation of the event. Preparation for the seminar began back in February of this year where members of the youth advisory committee- Peter Rustia (Slovene), Ronan Al Louarn (Breton), Max Mauro (Friulan), and Mark Taylor (British, living in Strasbourg) and this author sat down to a weekend's meeting to discuss the main aims and format of the seminar.

All members of the organising team would be responsible for different sections of the programme. By the end of the seminar the aim was to have imparted our skills to the participants. Following an intensive weekend's debate it was agreed that the seminar would concentrate on the following areas: the sharing of common experiences of the youth of lesser used language communities, the promotion of international communication between youth organisations, European funding, the organisation of European international meetings and youth and the media. Each member of the team volunteered to take responsibility for sections of the programme and was to devise a methodology for the second preparatory meeting in April which would take place in the venue of the seminar, Sodalitas Katholisches Bildungsheim in Tinje\ Tainach, Austria.

At this meeting members of the committee put forward and demonstrated their respective methods for the programme. A list of participants was also agreed upon by the group (invitations had already been distributed to candidates along with questionnaires). The venue was a "Hilton hotel" of hostels containing all required facilities: 5 workgroup rooms in addition to the plenary room, videos, flipcharts, music system and a bar in the basement for nocturnal activities. All this, as well as an extremely amenable staff and a fantastic view of surrounding lakes and snow capped mountains.

June came and the seminar which we had been working on for six months finally happened. Our methods were put to the test. Over the four days of the seminar every effort was made to unite the group and to optimise all available time, both during the official timetable of the seminar and after hours. Throughout the meeting the workgroup format was used where the participants broke up into 4 work groups to discuss subjects such as " The challenge of promoting our languages- problems and solutions", "Participants'" experience of international contact", and work groups on hypothetical youth exchanges (in conjunction with an information session on European funding). Each work group was followed by plenary sessions where a rapporteur reported for the various groups. Games were also used throughout the seminar not only to increase cooperation amongst the participants but also to evaluate how we communicate with one another and develop team spirit. Particularly successful methods were for example the 2 minute contest involving the presentation of youth organisations in the style of a television advertisement: Marije Manterola Iribar, the

Basque delegate was a weather woman draped in a flag and presented her organisation and the Basque situation in the style of a weather report. Dara Mac Aoidh, the Irish delegate presented his organisation with the aid of a giant illustrated story book outlining the Irish situation from prehistoric times to modern day. On the second evening we had an exhibition of youth organisations, culture and food, where the plenary room was decorated with a display of brochures and posters about all their respective organisations.

This was then followed by an evening of minority food and drink where we had an opportunity to savour such gastronomic delights as reindeer meat which the Tornedalian Finn Anders Alapaa brought along. However, the pièce-de-resistance of the seminar for many was the last day where there was a series of workshops on youth and the media. They included television, information technology, magazines and radio given by Mirko Bogataj of the *European Broadcasting Association*, and head of Slovene programming in ORF, Franz Toma i of *Ethno-lab Euroweb* and his brother Hanzi Toma i editor of the Slovene paper *Nedelja*, Egbert Born of the *International Network of Correspondence* (a magazine network) and Max Mauro of *Radio Onde Furlane*. Each participant had a choice of two workshops. During the information technology workshop a page on the Internet was compiled about the seminar by the participants with the invaluable assistance of Franz Toma i.

The **European Seminar on the training of youth leaders of youth organisations in lesser used language communities** enabled participants to organise their own respective gatherings on a range of topics with the aid of different methods demonstrated to them during the seminar. A report on the seminar which is primarily didactic describing the methodology and techniques used is now available. Was the seminar a success? In the words of one participant, Betsan Dafydd (Welsh) as stated on her evaluation form: "The best thing about the seminar was that it was organised very well and in a constructive way. But by saying this it was not dictatorial- **very empowering**- an important youth concept! The participants gelled brilliantly, the choice of participants was wide ranging. I missed nothing."

Caoimhe Ní Lochlainn

Publications

Euromosaic: A Study of Minority Languages in the EU

The European Commission has recently published the results of a major study on the lesser used languages of the EU - ***Euromosaic*** - *The Production and Reproduction of the Minority Language Groups in the European Union*. It is the most in-depth and analytical study to date which has been conducted on behalf of the European Commission on this subject. The Commission's main aims in this study were: to describe the situation of each linguistic community, assessing its ability of production and reproduction as well as its difficulties with regard to these two processes; and to ensure that clear and precise data is provided by this research using the same criteria for all languages.

The institutes involved in the research and which compiled the report were the *Centre de Recherche sur le Plurilinguisme* of the Catholic University in Brussels; the *Institut de Sociolinguística Catalana*, Barcelona; the *Research Centre Wales*, University of Wales, Bangor and the *Fédération Nationale des Foyers Ruraux*, Paris. The final document comprises 48 individual reports on the linguistic groups, in addition to 8 reports on the use of the languages based on analysed up-to-date information collected during 2400 interviews with these linguistic groups.

Some of the main conclusions of the research show that the more preserved linguistic groups are those who benefit from support from the State which promotes their production and reproduction processes within society. However, the majority of linguistic groups do not benefit from such support and are often met with hostility. Other results in the study show that the demographic size of the linguistic group is no guarantee of its viability. The more successful groups have established a symbiotic relationship with the broader economic context establishing economic activities which are often of a traditional nature. Any enhanced integration into the general process of economic restructuring would be threatening to such groups.

In addition, the report also looks at linguistic groups within the general social, cultural, economic and political restructuring process in Europe. The current debate concerning a new united Europe reasserts the values of diversity and human resources. These linguistic groups therefore have a significant part to play and the authors of the study call for political recommendations which will consider the question of linguistic minorities as central to the debate on European integration and development.

The publication of Euromosaic is significant for a number of reasons. It is the most conclusive study to date conducted for the European Commission of minority languages within the European Union. The methodology of the report enables comparisons to be made between communities with regard to their capacity of production and reproduction and highlights in each community the domains in which action needs to be taken. Furthermore, the consideration of diversity within the new restructuring of European society offers new possibilities for the development of linguistic minorities. ***Euromosaic*** is an important document and provides the basis for new initiatives in the promotion of minority languages within the EU.

The report is available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Greek and it can be obtained from European Union Publications, 2 rue Mercier, L-2985 Luxembourg tel: + 352 29291 fax: +352 48 8573 Price: 14.50Ecu

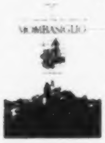
Christian Demeuré-Vallée

The Mercator Media Guide
Volume 2

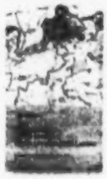
The second volume of the *Mercator Media Guide* has been published by the *University of Wales Press, Mercator Media Prifysgol Cymru/University of Wales Aberystwyth SY23 3AS Cymru/Wales t: +44 1970 622 533/fx: +44 1970 622 190 E-mail: **merc@aber.ac.uk***. This is a reference linking the main communications media and information sources within ten of the lesser used language communities of the European Union: Asturian, Corsican, German in Belgium, Alsace-Lorraine and South Tirol, French and Franco provençal in the Aosta Valley, Friulan, Galician, Ladin and Sorbian. The first volume was printed in 1993 on nine other language communities. The printed volumes which appear in this book are a selection from a much larger database being compiled at Aberystwyth in Wales by the *Mercator Media Project* which is part of the Mercator Network of Documentation Centres.

Stabilising Indigenous Languages-Edited by Gina Cantoni, Published by Center for Excellence in Education, Northern Arizona University, *Publication Services /4/G6214.PO Box 5774, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011-5774, U.S.A.* Stabilising Indigenous Languages is the proceedings of two symposia held in November 1994 and May 1995 which brought together language activists, tribal educators, and experts on linguistics, language renewal and language reforms and community initiatives to stabilise and revitalise American Indian and Alaska native languages. It includes a survey of the historical, current and projected status of indigenous languages in the US as well as extensive information on the roles of families, communities and schools in promoting their use and maintenance. Contributions from well-known writers in the field such as Joshua Fishman and Michael Krauss are also included.

Iuil Cuairtean Culturach nan Roinnean Eorpach, *produced by the Permanent Delegation for Tourism of the European Commission's Assembly of the European Regions* with assistance from the Highland Regional Council. 225 pages in full colour describing the cultures of Europe's different regions. This is the Gaelic translation of the second volume of the 'European Cultures Itineraries Guide' which is part of an AER project for the promotion of cultural tourism. Each region contributed its own text, maps and photographs. Further information and copies available from Highland Regional Council, Department of Libraries and Leisure Studies, Kinmylies Buildings, Teaching Road, Inverness IV3 6NN, SCOTLAND. Fax: + 44 1463 711177.



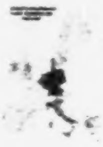
Atlante Toponomastico del Piemonte Montano. *5 volumes 100 pages per volume 17,000 Lira per volume. Published by the Cultural Department of the Region of Piedmont and the Department of Science and Language at Turin University* these five books are detailed descriptions of the place names of the region. Further information from: University degli Studi di Torino, Dipartimento di Scienze del Linguaggio e Letterature Moderne e Comparate, Via S. Ottavio 20, I-10124 Torino, Italy Fax: + 39 11 889983.



Breve Storia della lingua e della letteratura ladina- *Walter Belardi, published by Istitut Cultural Ladin "Micurà de Ru", 115 pages, ISBN 88-8171-000-5.* Exactly as the title suggests this book is a brief history of Ladin literature and language. As well as providing much information on the origin and history of the language several chapters also concentrate on its future in Italian society. The development of the language's literature and debates such as a common spelling for the language are also discussed.

Control Linguistic O Caos- *Vicent Pitarch, 247 pages, published by Edicions Bromera, Poligon Industrial 1, E-46600 Alzira, fax: + 34 6 2402254. ISBN84-7660-270-7.* 'Language Control or Chaos' is a study of the present day situation of the Valencian variety and its efforts to plan for a language without a linguistic authority. Unlike Basque, Catalan (in Catalonia) and Galician which have their own language authorities responsible for their planning and future use, the author tries here to describe how Valencian is in danger of progressive disintegration without the support structures enjoyed by Spain's other lesser used languages.

Forum-Konferinsje, Ekonomyske ûntjouwing yn plattelânsgebieten yn relaasje ta minderheidstales/FOPRUM-Conference, Economic Development in Rural Areas in Interaction with Minority Languages, *Published by Berie foar it Frysk, Ljouwert, the Netherlands.* The conference of the above title was the third of a series of so-called Forum conferences held from 11 to the 14 October 1995, in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. The report is a collection of the papers given at this conference which was mainly directed towards minority languages in economic products and the setting up of economic activities which favour minority languages.



Europa kalendaro Fasti Europenses 1997-98. *Published by EŬRUKLUB, Societo pri Lingvolimtranspaŝa, Postfach 1444, D-33044 Paderborn, Germany.* This is a calendar with new words and phrases for each day of the year in Esperanto and 13 other languages. Half of the publication contains general information on European countries, their languages, economy and forms of government written in the language of the country translated into Esperanto.

Fünf Idiome-Eine Schrifsprache - *Daniela Gloor, Susanne Hobermuth, Hanna meier, Hans-Peter Meier. Published by Verlag Bündner Monatsblatt/Desertina AG, 27.50 DM, 144 pages ISBN 3 905241 72 2.* Rhaeto-Romansh, one of Switzerland's four languages has five dialects all which serve as tools of communication between the Rhaetoromansh community both orally and in writing. In 1990 the number of speakers of the language was 66,350. In 1982 a standard written form was agreed for the language and this study examines the question of how well does this written form serve all five dialects. Many linguists disagree on the answer to this question and this publication presents the different points of view and analyses. For the purpose of the study a survey took place in the Canton of Graubünden where 1,000 speakers from the five different dialect areas described their daily language use and their aspirations and possibilities for its future.

L'Europe des Langues - Miguel Siguan. *Published by Pierre Mardaga, 200 pages. ISBN: 2-87009-618-6.* 'L'Europe des Langues ' offers the general reader a global and lucid approach so linguistic questions in Europe. Miguel Siguan takes us from the origins of European linguistic pluralism to present day EU activities in the field of languages. He describes relations, which are at times very close and complex, between language and national identity and reminds us of policies adopted by different states in dealing with linguistic diversity within their state. He also provides an analysis of language behaviour in societies where more than one language coexists together in areas where English is constantly present. The problems of language teaching and bilingual education are also dealt with. The whole study is guided by the author's ambition to trace the tracks of a linguistic policy for the European Union aimed at promoting multilingualism amongst Europeans while at the same time respecting their various identities. Miguel Siguan, Emeritus professor at the University of Barcelona is one of the most respected experts in the field of bilingualism and language contact.

Christian Demeuré-Vallée

High Brussels **turn out** for Breton

On Thursday 26 September last, the conference room in *Le Botanique* cultural centre in Brussels was full to the brim with people who had come along to listen to Lukian Kergoat, head of the Breton and Celtic Departments of the University of Rennes, Brittany, give a talk on Breton and its place in Europe. The conference was organised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages with the kind support of the *Conseil des langues régionales endogènes de la Communaute française de Belgique* and Breton associations based in Brussels.

"*Brittany underwent an economic and social revolution after the Second World War*" explained Lukian Kergoat. "*and it was during this period that practical usage of the language in daily life fell into strong decline. Today this economic and cultural revolution has resulted in an unfavourable distribution of the language throughout the different age groups of the 250.000 daily speakers of the language*".He then went on to describe how Breton reclaimed its identity once Brittany economic modernisation was completed. A process which first happened on an individual level, resulting today in the language having reappeared as one of the main markers of Breton identity.

This change of attitude towards the language was also a response to changes in the militant culture of the region. One no longer depended on the State but turned to one's own resources. Thus the setting up of Diwan schools (all-Breton schools) and the installation of bilingual road signs bore testimony to this new approach, an approach also favoured by the then new emerging Europe. Also, the increasing number of meetings between those promoting culture on a European level resulted in an exchange of experiences. What had been possible in the country next door was now becoming possible in one's own country.

Politicians began to pay more attention to concrete demands. Developments in education helped the language assume its place in economic life, while at the same time events such as the passing of European Parliament resolutions favouring minority languages, the creation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, financial assistance offered by the European Commission, and the work carried out by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, have all contributed to the revitalisation of minority languages; Breton being no exception. Furthermore the opening of borders lead to other Europeans seeing Brittany in a more favourable light and in Bretons seeing their European neighbours likewise. All of these events during these years have contributed to the largest revolution of the language yet: formerly considered as a negative trait of Breton identity, the language today is now seen to be more and more status-enhancing. This change in perception will continue to raise new hopes for the language.

Those attending the lecture showed great interest and sympathy for the views expressed and the question and answer session afterwards touched on elements which would play an important role in the language's future i.e. education, teacher training, terminology, and the media. Projects in these areas are already being undertaken in spite of the lack of State support and thanks to help from European and local bodies on the ground the language can assume its rightful place in Breton society, even though it lacks in legal status.

Christian Demeuré-Vallée

MED TV: Satellite Television for Kurdish speakers

Under license from the *Independent Television Commission*, MED-TV has been providing a television service in Kurdish since March 1995. The station's primary aim is the conservation of Kurdish, the native language of up to 30 million people who share a rich and common Kurdish heritage. Kurdish, an Indo-European language, is a member of the Iranian language group and is spoken as a minority language in Turkey, Iran and Iraq but also in small areas of neighbouring countries. Depending on the country in which it is spoken it is written in the Arabic, Cyrillic and (to a lesser extent) the Roman alphabets. Today this language is under threat and great pressure is placed on it by the authorities of the countries in which it is spoken to assimilate with the surrounding majority languages.

The origins of Kurdish are found in the lands on the eastern rim of the Mediterranean basin. From ancient times, the Kurds have been part of the web of cultural and trade relations which mutually enriched the cultures of the Near-East and the Mediterranean. Some sixty percent of Kurds are located in Turkey, which already enjoys full customs' union with Europe. A substantial number of Kurdish speaking communities is also found throughout EU member states. MED-TV is a commercially operated station and is unique in that it is the sole Kurdish language broadcaster. In Turkey, for example, with the exception of one magazine type programme in Kurdish, the language has no representation in the electronic or written media. MED-TV sees its primary role therefore as the transmission of Kurdish culture to the next generation mainly through educational and children's programmes.

On July 1st last however MED-TV was forced off the air because the satellite provider, Polish PTT, unilaterally broke its contract with MED. Broadcasting resumed on August 14 last on Intelsat (18 degrees west freq.: 11075) and transmission was interrupted for four hours the following day. Evidence suggests deliberate intervention rather than a technical hitch! The Turkish government has been going to extraordinary lengths in suppressing this minority language satellite broadcaster. An Early Day motion by British MP John Austin-Walker in the House of Commons on July 3 last noted "with regret" that European governments had "bowed to political pressure from Turkey", in refusing to provide MED-TV with satellite space, despite the fact that this minority language broadcasting service "fulfilled all its legal and contractual obligations and that it operates within the *European Convention on Transfrontier Television*. It would seem that Polish Telecom succumbed to pressure from the Turkish Government to break its contract with MED-TV. Both of these countries are candidates for future membership of the European Union but their role in suppressing MED-TV broadcasts contravene EU ideals.

Catherine Drucker

The **Study Visit Programme** 1995/96

The Study Visit Programme organised during the academic year 1995/96 comprised study visits to the Slovene community in Italy, the Danish community in Germany, Northern Ireland, the Catalan community in Sardinia, Ireland, Wales, and the Slovene community in Austria. Each group compiled a report and chooses a rapporteur to write a report. The following are extracts from these reports describing participants' experiences

The Slovenes in Italy

The first visit took place in October 1995, with 'education' as the main theme, to the Slovene community in Italy which included the 3 provinces of Gorizia, Trieste and Udine. Stefan Moal, (Brittanny) describes San Pietro al Natisone as a depopulated valley in Udine, which of the three provinces mentioned above enjoys the least linguistic protection. Ironically an earthquake in 1976 is considered to have had a positive effect on the language: the former Yugoslav republic of Slovenia sent building technicians to reconstruct the area and it is said that the Slovene inhabitants' sense of pride was rejuvenated in hearing the language spoken again. The number of children attending the Slovene language summer camps subsequently rose, as did the number of those attending the nursery schools and work also commenced on the Slovene education institute.

In describing a school visited by the group Moal writes: *"The school is fortunate in having inspiring teachers, a progressive methodology and a school which is open to newcomers: one staff member is even responsible for developing international contacts."* In all three provinces, however, finding materials and text books in the Slovene language poses a problem for teachers and many have to compile them themselves. The Union of Slovene Schools provides a forum for many of these grievances.

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages administers a Study Visit Programme on behalf of the European Commission. Study visits are organised to lesser used language communities each academic year. During the visit which lasts six days, participants observe how the minority language in question is promoted within the education system, media, local authority and local organisations. "Multipliers" or prominent members of minority communities such as journalists, teachers, and university lecturers are chosen for the programme.

If either you or your organisation is interested in participating in the Study Visit Programme during the academic year of 1997-98 (September-May), please send your name and address to the Bureau, and an information note, which will include a list of the chosen destinations and an application form, will be sent to you.

The Slovenes in Austria

Another Slovene community, this time situated in Austria formed the subject of a general visit with no specialised theme. The group rapporteur, Anna Ní Ghallachair, Ireland, noted the political and ideological divide which permeated all levels of the Slovene cultural movement in South Carinthia. *"There is a Catholic right wing faction and a left wing secular faction. The Roman Catholic Church has contributed monies to the Catholic faction, presumably in an anti- communist stance. The Leftist faction was to a greater extent subsidised by the former Yugoslavia and continues to receive most of its funding from Slovenia."* It would seem that this by no means hinders progress and innovation within the community but rather contributes to it. Examples of progressive initiatives are the use of the Internet where the Slovene newspaper *Nedelja* has been made available, and where the Carinthian Slovenes also have their own page in German, English and Slovene providing information on politics, culture and general information.

This innovation was, however, most apparent in areas such as the economy where commerce and trade are a means of promoting and developing cultural life of the area. *Posojilnica Bank* for example operates like a cooperative offering attractive credit to farmers and small businesses and a percentage of the profits is channelled into cultural development. The rapporteur praised this firm economic basis for the community: *"In many countries where lesser used languages are spoken too much emphasis is placed on propping up the culture and separate identity. In the final analysis only a strong economic foundation, continually mindful of its cultural role can provide the right conditions for the language and culture to flourish. All of the Carinthian Slovenes involved in the promotion of their language appear to have understood this."*

Wales

Wales is another example of a community which has fully understood the importance of linking language with the economy. Menter A Busnes an organisation involved in the economic development of the Welsh speaking community organised this visit which had "the economy" as its specialised theme. The programme included visits to public relations companies, language consultancies, third level business courses, rotary clubs and television production companies. What was apparent during the visit was the extent of the spin off of employment as a result of language related activities and the general consensus throughout the region that "Welsh is essentially good for business!"

On some of the other visits the importance of administrative and educational structures in support of the language was particularly highlighted. The ***Catalan community in Alghero in Sardinia***, out of all the communities visited this year received the least support: the language is not taught in the education system and there are only two private schools in which it is taught in evening classes only. In direct contrast with this were the visits to the ***Danish community in Germany*** and to the ***Republic of Ireland***. In the case of Irish, it is an official language with its own separate government department and two state boards. The visit to ***Northern Ireland*** provided an example however of what can be achieved by lobbying and a community's dedication even in the absence of any official recognition for the language. The group rapporteur for this visit, Jean Dominique Robin (Brittany) focused on the community's achievements in education: *"The primary school Ionad Uíbh Eathach was established in 1987 with only 7 pupils. The school survived for five years without any state subvention and relied totally on the voluntary services of the teachers and the determination and support of parents living in an area of high unemployment. This school is comparable to many other schools such as Bunscoil an Iúir, Meánscoil Dhoire which receive no state support. There have been some developments such as in the case of Bunscoil Cholmchille in Derry which is now state supported, and more recently Meánscoil Feirste which will finally benefit from the social plan "Make*

Belfast work". Also for the first time this year 7 secondary school pupils from Meánscoil Feirste will sit the GSCE (General certificate of secondary education) through Irish in five subjects."

In all seven study visits of the 1995/96 programme, ranging from the Slovene community to Northern Ireland participants gained invaluable information from the visited communities. Projects of collaboration and an exchange of information between the host communities and the participants have also commenced. The programme after all is a two way process where both participants and organisers gain from the scheme and will continue to do so in the future.

Caoimhe Ní Lochlainn

New Centre for Minority Issues

Based in Flensburg (Germany) the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) is an independent academic institution established this year by agreement between the governments of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Federal German State of Schleswig Holstein. The purpose of the new centre is to conduct interdisciplinary research into issues related to ethnic minorities and majorities within a European perspective. Amongst its aims over the coming years is the construction of a databank consisting of bibliographic information on the ethnic structure of greater Europe (EU and the Arctic, the Russian Federation, the CIS, and the Black Sea areas) and to carry out research on minority issues. Together with other research institutions, NGOs, and various international organisations it intends also to set up task forces which will focus on acute inter-ethnic tensions with potential for ethnic or interstate war.

Its information service will consist of compiling a catalogue of institutions dealing with minority/majority issues and a library of publications will also be set up with particular emphasis on inter-ethnic relations, minority issues and ethnic conflict in Europe. Furthermore, the centre will organise symposia and seminars to promote and to communicate practical experiences in the protection of minorities.

ECMI is legally registered in Schleswig Holstein as a non-profit foundation financed by the three founding governments mentioned above. For 1997 the budget will be 680,000 ECU. Funding from the European Union's Interreg programme is also expected during the year. At present the centre employs a fulltime Director and Office Manager and in the coming year the following posts will be created: electronic services librarian, two research associates and two to three research assistants. Candidates with a high level of attainment in the fields of political science, international relations, social anthropology, law, economics, sociology, comparative religious studies, contact linguistics, contemporary European history,or related academic disciplines will be considered. The working language of the Centre is English but publications will be both in English and Russian. Further information available from:

European Centre for Minority Issues, Schiffbrucke 12 (Kompagnietor), D-24939 Flensburg, GERMANY Phone/fax: + 49 461 2 97 28

NewsPapers in Minority Languages

N° 40
La Setmana
10 F

State funding refused for weekly newspapers in regional languages

In 1995 the French government through its Ministry of Culture decided to pay subventions to regional weekly newspapers in the same way as it does for daily newspapers. A budget of 5 million French francs was allocated. On May 16 last however, the French Official Journal published a decree in which one of the first conditions for this support was that the newspaper had to be written in French; newspapers in a regional language were not eligible.

The only French weekly written entirely in a regional language is the Occitan paper *La Setmana* which can no longer receive public financial aid as a result of the new decree. The paper, which was set up in 1995 with a readership of 1,000, aims to provide news and information in Occitan. It has two full time employees and over thirty correspondents. According to its editor David Grosclaude: "We cannot accept discrimination based on linguistic criteria; freedom of expression, pluralism and freedom to inform do not go hand in hand with a policy that denies linguistic and cultural diversity".

Decisions such as the above deny support for a badly needed service i.e. regional press in the regional language; only three years ago the successful North-Catalan bilingual weekly newspaper *EL Punt* had to stop publication because of financial difficulties. In spite of this recent cutback however it is hoped that the paper will be able to continue to provide news in Occitan for its readers.

Irish

Launch of new Irish language newspaper *Foinse*

Meanwhile in Ireland things are positively different! Last October saw the publication of the first edition of a new Irish language weekly newspaper *FOINSE (Source)*. Based in the Conamara Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking area) on the western seaboard, this national newspaper covers issues of local, national and international interest and contains up-to-date information on news, sport, business, travel, health and fashion. With over one million Irish speakers (see CB 13.2), *Foinse* will prove both an effective information source to readers whose number is estimated to be about 50,000. It presently employs an editor, two full-time journalists, a secretary, a designer, a production manager and an advertising manager. It is also intended to make it available in the future on the Internet. For further information:

FOINSE, Baile an tSléibhe, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe, Ireland, fax: + 353 91 553055; email: foinse@iol.ie

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THE EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES seeks to conserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Union, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland, and an AI in Belgium. It works in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the European Commission, the Irish Government, the government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the Germanophone Community in Belgium. Rent-free accomodation is provided for its Brussels Information Centre by the Francophone Community in Belgium

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European language Day

IN THIS ISSUE
Circassians in Israel
Low German
EP reduces support
Assembly of the Regions
Gaelic and Tourisim
Scottish

April 12 last saw celebration of the first European Language Day, an initiative of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages aimed at heightening awareness among the wider European public of the rich linguistic heritage of our continent. Emphasis was placed on the lesser used languages of the Union and their speakers. The event was officially launched in Dublin by the Bureau's Dublin Head Office which also produced, for the occasion, a poster/brochure in French, English, Irish and Italian. The poster describes the work of the Bureau and contains an EU map showing the lesser used languages and where they are spoken. Meanwhile on the same day the Bureau's Information Centre in Brussels held a press conference at the Palais d'Europe in Strasbourg during the Parliament's April plenary session. Events were organised locally by member state committees of the Bureau, the largest event being *Euroschule*, a gathering of school children from all over Europe who speak a lesser used language. This major event took place in the Germanophone area of Denmark.

In Italy children from Slovene medium schools came together in Gorizia for dance, music, theatre performances while further north in Badia children from Ladin schools came together for a prize giving event for a Ladin literature competition for middle and secondary school children. This was accompanied by musical performances and readings of the prize winners works. A poetry competition and quiz show took place throughout various towns in the Albanian speaking region in the south of the country and ended with a rock concert performed by the Peppa Marriti Band.

The Bureau's Belgian member state committee in conjunction with the European Bureau's Brussels Information Centre organised children from Belgium's minority language communities to present representatives of European Institutions with brochures and posters marking this very special day. This was then followed by cultural performances by the children in their language at the Brussels Language Festival where the Bureau was holding an exhibition of Europe's minority languages. Lectures, talks, seminars on minority language issues were organised in the Danish and Sorbian communities in Germany, in the Catalan community in Sardinia, in Wales, in the German community in Denmark, in the Finnish community in Sweden and throughout all minority language areas in Austria. All in all over 30 events were organised throughout the lesser used languages of the Union and were well attended by children and adults alike. A full report on th event will appear in the next edition of C.B.

JACQUES SANTER SENDS MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN LANGUAGE DAY

European Language Day
12th April 97

Conscious of this rich linguistic heritage and the need for a closer involvement with the Union's citizens, the Commission now for years has assisted initiatives aimed at conserving and promoting Europe's regional and minority languages. As confirmed in the Treaty on European Union, article 128, "The Community shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the member states while respecting their national and regional diversity". Raising awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity is very important and, as President of the European Commission and a speaker of a lesser used language, I fully sup-

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port the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages in organizing a European Language Day. During this day events, targeted at children and adults alike, will be held in numerous European cities and will undoubtedly deepen mutual understanding and comprehension. The events will reinforce the sentiment of belonging to Europe and underline our responsibility to safeguard and promote our minority languages. If we allow the number of people who speak our minority languages to diminish further an important part of European cultural heritage will disappear for ever. European citizens are privileged to live in a multilingual union and we must recognize this in order to maintain and respect the Union's cultural diversity.

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission

Education Policy towards the **Circassian Minority in Israel**

Introduction

Circassian, or Cherkess, is the general name for a group of people who formally inhabited the northwestern Caucasus and part of the East coast of the Black Sea. They are divided into two major groups: the Adygh, which is also the name they themselves use, and the Kabardian (Dirr, 1913-1937:834). In the 1860s and 1870s, when the Russians began their conquest of the Caucasus, a large percentage of the population perished and most of the survivors were forced to migrate to Ottoman Turkey to the eastern shore of the Mediterranean (Stendel, 1973). Today there are about 90,000 Circassians distributed in pockets throughout Turkey. There are approximately 61,000 Circassians in Syria, 29,000 in Jordan and 8,000 in Iraq (Weekes, 1978:176). Today, 38 Caucasian languages are in use. Circassian belongs to the Northwestern group of the family. This is the most compact branch in the classification of Caucasian languages and includes five languages in three subgroups: (1)Ubyx, (2) Abxaz, Abaza (3) Adygh/Kabardian and Circassian (Ruhlen 1987:324).

The Circassians in Israel

In the 1870s, some of the Circassians settled in villages in Palestine. Today there are 2,500 Cricassians in Israel. As a whole they are well integrated into Israeli society. Families are small, most of them finish high school and many go to universities and colleges. Since 1958, at the community's request, all Circassian men do compulsory army service. Although Circassians are Sunni Moslems, they live according to their own oral law, passed down from father to son over the centuries. They demonstrate an integrative aspect of ethnic diversity: the co-existence of ethnic identity with a deep commitment to Israel.

The decade from the mid 1960s to the mid 1970s is often designated as revealing a widespread 'revival of ethnicity' (Fishman, 1984:21). In this decade a renaissance of the Circassian cultural consciousness began among the young Circassian generation in Israel, due in part to the combined efforts and encouragement from the Circassian leadership and the Israel Minister of Education. This ethnic revival is manifest in efforts to secure books and articles about the Circassian people, an interest in contemporary Circassian music, and attempts to recreate the national costume. Following a strong debate on the language in 1971 it was decided to introduce it as a compulsory subject from the sixth grade of primary school to the eighth (last) grade.

The question of Change of Language

One of the most crucial language planning decisions that can be made is to determine which language will serve as the medium of instruction in school (Fasold, 1984:292). Even more critical is the transition from one language of instruction to a second. Since the 1960s, the younger Circassian generation has demanded that the language of instruction in their schools be changed from Arabic to Hebrew. (Darwin 1964). Both Circassian villages in Israel (Reihanyia and Kfar Kama) have primary schools (eight grades) and the children go on to high schools in other villages, often to Hebrew speaking high schools. Their environment is also a Hebrew speaking environment - in the army and outside the Circassian community Hebrew has become the medium of social interaction among all Circassians.

In the 1970s however there was a significant policy change which extended to both villages the option of choosing the language of study. The move was an attempt to improve the educational system and to relieve the pressure on parents to adopt the Hebrew language. The parents' committee and the local village council in both villages set up a commission to study the situation and come up with recommendations. A complete reorganization of the school structure was discussed. First and foremost it was recommended that instruction in Hebrew should be made more effective for all pupils. In 1976 an official committee composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education, Circassian teachers, parents and local authorities in Kfar Kama recommended that Hebrew should be the sole language of instruction in the school, with Arabic the second language and Circassian a compulsory subject. The decision was adopted in 1977 and this same year the transition from Arabic to Hebrew as the language of instruction began.

Social Contexts

Before a Circassian child begins to attend school it learns the vernacular Carcassian spoken by its elders. When the child goes to kindergarten, its education will be conducted in the familiar vernacular which it has already used at home. As regards primary school, in the village of Kfar Kama the principle language of socialization is Hebrew. Arabic is introduced as a separate subject starting from the first grade and is the special language of instruction for Islam. English is introduced in the fifth grade and Circassian writing and grammar are introduced in the sixth grade.

In the other Circassian village, Reihaniya, Arabic replaces the vernacular as the language of instruction in the first grade. The pupils are however not unfamiliar with Arabic as they have had it as a subject since the first year of kindergarten. Hebrew is introduced as a subject in the second grade while in the fifth grade English is introduced as a subject and Circassian writing, reading and grammar in the sixth. It is then in this grade that Hebrew replaces Arabic in the teaching of mathematics. Thus in both villages at primary school level children have to take up two foreign languages: Arabic and Hebrew from the beginning of their education.

Secondary Education For Kfar Kama pupils the high school setting of language learning is an extension of the primary school. For Reihaniya pupils the high school very often means a change in the language of instruction from Arabic to Hebrew, because most of them go on to Hebrew high schools. Yet, for both villages there are noticeable differences. Although Hebrew continues to be the principle instrument of effective socialization and intellectual development, it is also becoming the major contact language in all types of social interaction. Meanwhile Circassian is no longer a course in the school curriculum. Yet, to the pupils it has remained an auxiliary medium of communication. In all informal situations, among Circassian friends, it often becomes a code which is restricted to the 'in-group'. Therefore there is no difference between the use of Circasssian in the family context and during school recreation. The important difference is between the two school contexts: classroom and recreation.

Code Switching

Circassians are very tolerant of code switching and code mixing. One explanation of this tolerance is that code switching and code mixing serve to facilitate communication. Although one may grope for appropriate words or expressions to discuss an experience or an idea in one language, mixed patterns from the different linguistic systems seem to flow more easily. Although almost all of the population is multi or bi-lingual, there is no intergenerational switching and the community has remained bilingual for decades. There is not even an early sign of shift; each language remains in the domains in which it used to be reserved. The Circassian case provides support for the basic hypothesis that a minority language community is in the best position to resist language shift when it can maintain a diglossic functional differentiation between its own language and that of the majority.

Conclusion

It is clear that the entire community of the Circassian population in Israel speaks the vernacular mother tongue. It is just as clear that the Circassian language symbolizes Circassian ethnicity and constitutes the 'core value' (Smolicz, 1984:26) of their culture. The Circassian language can be regarded as the 'cultural marker' of the Circassian's minority existence and as a model of the cultural pluralism in the ethnically heterogeneous society of Israel. In this context, Fishman hails the Circassian 'struggle for the right to teach Circassian in the schools of Circassians' as the beginning of 'the possible benefits of cultural diversity for the Jewish population', namely 'the long road toward non-Hebrew/non-Arabic mother tongue recognition begins in Israel with a small non-Jewish population'. (Fishman and Fishman, 1978:255).

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Letters to the Editor

Low German

Professor Dr. Jan Wirrer, Universität Bielefeld, Fakultät für Linguistik und Literaturwissenschaft,
Postfach 100131, D-33501 Bielefeld GERMANY:

For a long time now I have intended to write a letter to you concerning the status of Low German, or rather, Saxon. Reinhard F. Hahn's letter which was recently published in CONTACT BULLETIN finally prompted me to respond.

I share Mr. Hahn's view in almost every respect. In spite of the fact that there is no standard form for modern Low German and modern standard German is the standard form of different Low German varieties, it must be said that Low German and its linguistic varieties are not dialests of standard German. Linguistically Low German has to be regarded as an *Abstandsprache*, a term coined by Heinz Kloss in some of his publications. Its status, therefore is equivalent to that of Occitan and Scots, two languages which have already been recognised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages for quite a long time.

The reason why Low German has been notoriously neglected nationally, and, as a consequence, internationally, is rooted in politics and in the ideology of a linguistically homogeneous nation, not in linguistics itself. It is this attitude which has helped to bring about the present situation of many minor and endangered languages in the world. The recognition of Low German by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages has been a desideratum for a long time.

Uwe Joachim Moritzlm Römerfeld 44.D-52249 Eschweiler GERMANY:

It was with great surprise that I read the article *Regional Languages and Democracy* by Jean-Luc Fauconnier in the last edition of your newsletter. The author claimed in the paragraph *There's language and there's language* that Low Saxon was considered in Germany to be simply a dialect and was therefore doomed to die.

Low German is considered by a large majority of linguists to be one of several West Germanic languages alongside German, Dutch, Frisian, Luxembourgish and English. Low German can hardly be lumped in with dialects simply because it has no standard linguistic form. So why shouldn't Low German be considered a language? The non-recognition of Low German came about because one or other politicians, due to ideological or political budgetary reasons did not see it as one of the languages to come under the protection of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. Luckily, however a strong group of Bundestag (German Parliament) members from all political divides and with the support of local governments have now almost succeeded in having Germany ratify the Charter including Low German along with Sorbian, Frisian, Danish and hopefully also Rom.

Almost 13 years ago the results of a scientific survey (Dieter Stellmacher: Wer Spricht Platt? Zur Lage des Niederdeutschen Eine kurzgefaßte Bestandsaufnahme; Verlag Schuster, Lleer, 1987, ISBN 3-7963-0250-5) showed that circa 9 million people used Low German, in all sorts of domains. Who then decides what a pure regional language is? From a psycholinguistic point of view what is the difference between using a standardized language and a dialect of this language? Or do those self-called 'Protectors of Language' not even consider the individual who wishes to use his/her own inherited language variety? If Fauconnier agrees to include (and so he should) Asturian, Aragonese, Sicilian, Walloon, Picard, Jurasian and Norman in the list then he cannot in the same breadth question the right to include Low German and Cornish.

Furthermore, Low German is never mentioned in the publications of the European Bureau. It is simply scandalous, that an institution which has as its task the protection and promotion of the EU's linguistic minorities and which for the most part is funded from the taxes of EU citizens denies the existence of Low German and Aroganese, while recognizing *Parlers du domaine d'oil*, one "Pomak" , two Albanian, and three Frisian language minorities. If dialects are not to be considered than Frisian and Albanian should be shown in different places as the one language.

Karl-Peter Kööp,Norderfelder Weg 1,D-25821 Vollstedt:

In the Autumn 1996 edition (Volume 13 Number 3) of CONTACT BULLETIN an article appeared on the current debate in the Netherlands on the European Charter where alongside with Frisian, Low Saxon also comes under the protection of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Page 2: *"But Low Saxon! It is certainly spoken on the Eastern fringes of the Netherlands, but Germany is where it is mainly spoken and there it is to be considered a straight forward dialect"* .

This is untrue. The history of what is known today as Low German/Low Saxon/Plattdeutsch traces its development back to Middle Low German (Hanse) and further back to Old Saxon which along with Old Frisian and Old English belong to the West Germanic group of languages. The language never underwent the great vowel shift (6-9thC) and this is the essential trait that distinguishes (Old) Saxon (and linguistic forms which developed from it) from (Old) High German and which therefore places it as a language in its own right. Today the term Low German (Niederdeutsch) is a creation of modern times, in the Middle Ages the language was referred to as Saxon.

The development of New High German slowly suppressed Low Saxon but never reduced it to the status of dialect: there is no High German variety tainted with Low Saxon; what's spoken is either Low Saxon or High German. Sociolinguistically speaking one may wish to see this differently but then Frisian would have to be regarded as a dialect of the (Standard) German language group. There are now in North Germany, especially in Schleswig-Holstein, an increasing number of movements and institutions which are promoting and defending this indigenous language which, with the consent of the Ministry of Education is now part of the school curriculum. The European Commission for example funded a project entitled "Low German in the Press".

Furthermore in Contact Bulletin Volume 8 Numbers 2+3, Autumn 1991 a map was published showing the lesser used languages of the EC . Unfortunately Low Saxon/Low German, a language spoken by several million people in Northern Germany was not shown. It is high time that people in Europe took us seriously!

Cornelia Nath,Ostfriesische Lanfdschaft,Postfach 1580,D-26585 Aurich:

It is not true that Low German (Low Saxon in the Netherlands) is considered a dialect in Germany. The North German states where most Low German is spoken by a large number of people (Bremen, Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), have called for Low Saxon's inclusion as a regional language in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This they did long before the Netherlands ratified the Charter. As Germany is a structure of federal states its ratification of this Charter is taking somewhat longer as it affects 8 states in total who must reach common agreement. The other languages affected are Frisian, Sorbian, and Rom.

Low German is older than High German (Standard German) and it would be absurd to describe it as a dialect. It distinguishes itself greatly from the official language of the State. As regards the protection of regional or minority languages by the European Charter, linguistic criteria are of only secondary importance. What's more important is the will of the speaker of the small language and the linguistic policy of the state in which the language has always been spoken. One can only wait in hope that Germany will soon ratify the Charter and that Low Saxon on German territory will benefit from European protection.

In Brief

Scots

A report to be soon published by the British Government concerns the results of three polls carried out in Scotland to evaluate the strength and distribution of the Scots language. The purpose of the surveys, the results of which are published in this report, was to determine the suitability of a question relating to Scots in the census. The result from that point of view was quite disappointing. However, the report is valuable for a number of reasons, not least of these being that the British Government has published its own figures for the first time on the number of people believed to be Scots-speaking: 1.5 million. A definition is offered for the first time by them describing what they believe the Scots language to be, and where the strongest Scots speaking areas are.

"The language used in Scotland today retains a lot of traditional Scots speech forms, though there is a continuum of speech type in the Scottish population ranging from clearly English to clearly Scots. Many people's speech can be clearly assigned by researchers as predominantly stemming from one or other of the two languages".

The Government researchers *"came to the view that ...although a link between Scots and age may suggest that Scots was being lost, this is largely contradicted by the overall result of about 1.5 million people affirming that they speak Scots".*

Copies of the report and results of the surveys are available on disk for £4 stg from: General Registers Office, Ladywell House, Ladywell Road, Edinburgh EH12 7TF

Steve Murdoch

Education cuts for Scottish Gaelic

The Highland Council local authority in Scotland, which is responsible for traveling teachers of Scottish Gaelic in primary schools, has now decided to remove the services of these teachers from primary schools throughout the Scottish Highland regions. The decision will result in the loss of 5.5 teaching posts, a paltry saving in the overall education budget compared to the damage it will do to the Gaelic language in Scotland. Though Gaelic medium primary schools are not threatened by the latest cuts, the majority of primary school pupils in the areas affected attend English medium schools, because for many parents the travel distance to the few Gaelic medium schools is prohibitive. This cut therefore will result in no formal contact with Gaelic for a child's entire seven years of primary education. Other subjects availing of the visiting teachers scheme are in the main music and physical education and teachers are being withdrawn from these subjects also. Unlike Gaelic, however, these subjects can be taught by members of the permanent staff. This decision shows the local authority's lack of interest in the welfare of the Gaelic language. Their attitude reinforces the point that Scottish Gaelic in the Highlands cannot even count on the support of its 'local' authority and that statutory protection under British or EU law is desperately needed.

Martin Mac Donald.

Bilingual Boost for Diabetics

Diabetics in Wales recently received a new boost with the opening of a new centre in Cardiff where advice and services will be available to them in Welsh and English. The Chairman of the Welsh language Board, Lord Elis-Thomas said during the opening of the center:

"With sensitive issues such as health, it's a great comfort to be able to discuss matters in one's mother tongue. We are delighted that the British Diabetic Association Wales is aware of this and is offering a bilingual service".

Soome-Ugri Rahvaste Infokeskus SURI

The object of this new centre (Information Centre of Finn-Ugric Peoples) is to collect, collate and disseminate miscellaneous information about the Finno-Ugrian and Samoyed peoples. Combining data from research in Uralistics with data on the real cultural life of Uralic peoples is how the centre approaches its work. SURI's database contains data on scientific establishments, researchers, research topics and scientific archives, in addition to data on cultural establishments, public organisations, traditional art groups and people involved in cultural activities in the Finno-Ugrian territories. The aim of these activities is to promote the development of cultural and scientific contacts and to introduce the Finno-Ugric and Samyoed cultural heritage to other cultural communities all over the world. SURI also collects all kinds of legal documents concerning Finno-Ugrian and other indigenous peoples. The Information centre has been supported by the Open Estonia Foundation (Soros Foundations) and UNESCO.

The Centre's new newsletter will be published quarterly in Russian and English and will include chronicles of events, articles pertaining to Ugrian and other indigenous peoples, summaries from scientific magazines and annotated bibliographies of books on Finno-Ugrian and other indigenous peoples. The first edition of the newsletter contains the texts of the documents of two congresses of the Finno-Ugrian peoples (Syktyvkar, 1992 and Budapest 1996), and a speech delivered by president Lennart Meri of Estonia to the Finno Ugrian Writers Association. Two texts (The Statutes of the Consultative Committee of Finno-Ugrain Peoples and The Resolution of the Second World Congress of Finno-Ugrian Peoples) have been translated for the first time from Russian. **Further information from:Andress Heinapuu,Information Centre of Finno-Ugric Peoples, Roosikrantsi 6, EE-0001 Tallinn, ESTONIA tel: + 372 2 448322; fax: + 372 2 441800, E-mail: suri@eki.ee**

New Breton Language magazine: Ekiant

Ekiant is an international journal devoted to the sciences, technology and to the relationships between science, art, language, economy and society. Published in Breton, with English abstracts, the journal will cover theoretical and applied research in physical and mathematical sciences, advanced and traditional technologies, economics, and the interactions of their development with language, art and society.

Contributions include original results, seminal works, broad novel synthesis and symposium proceedings. Each issue will be illustrated with reproductions of paintings, photographs as well as other original art works. Due to the initiative taken by research scientists, engineers, educationalists, students, economists, managers and artists in Brittany, Ekiant's undertaking is unparalleled in the scientific and technical press by the place devoted to the confrontation of science and art and by the renewed use of the Breton language in science and technology. Ekiant's endeavour aims at cross-fertilising language, art, science and educationand leavening new connections between specialists of all disciplines and artists in Brittany and throughout the world. **Available from:**

Prof. M. Poutain Laboratoire des Matériaux Photonique Campus Universitaire de Beaulieu F-35042 Rennes, Britanny.

MA Bilingual Studies (A European Dimension)

This is a one-year gradute course leading to the degree of Master of Arts of the University of Wales. The degree is part of a European initiative to promote language learning and interculturalism. The Course Focuses on the subjects of bilingualisim, minority languages and language planning.
For more information, contact:
Delyth Jones, Trinity College Carmarthen. SA31 3EP. Wales Tel: (01267) 676798: Fax (01267) 676766: e-mail:D.jones@trinity-cm.ac.uk http://www.trinity-cm.ac.uk/additional/ma/net.htm

Reduction of support for minority languages in 1997 European Budget

During its plenary session of December 96, the European Parliament adopted the European Union's general budget for 1997. The 1997 budget contains a cut in its line devoted to regional or minority languages. The 4 million ECU allocated in the past two years will be reduced to 3.675 million ECU. It is the first time since the creation of this budget line in 1982 that the amount of moneys allocated to minority languages will be reduced.

The decision is totally unjustified if one considers the current weakness of the budget line and the increasing demand from linguistic communities. The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages fears that a negative signal may be sent to the 50 million European citizens of linguistic minority groups.

The reduction of the budget line stresses the urgency of adopting a pluri-annual programme in favour of regional and minority languages in order to ensure the continuity and the coherence of the European policy in this field. The Bureau welcomes the European Commission's interest in developing such a programme and pledges all support in advancing the project.

In dealing with the immediate effects of the reduction of the budget line, and in order to preserve what has already been built in the past, the Bureau calls on the Commission to give priority to ongoing actions and projects in favour of lesser used languages such as the Bureau itself, the Mercator network, and Euroschule, the bi-annual gathering of school children from bilingual schools. The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages invites the European Parliament which has, up to now, always defended minority language communities, to not only reverse the cut next year, but in fact increase the budget line to at least 5 million ECU.

Open Letter to members of the European Parliament

Monsieur le président, Madame la présidente

In 1982 the European Community established budget line B3-1006 dedicated to the regional or minority languages of the Union. We have just learned that there is a risk that the line may disappear altogether. Even though this line is a somewhat modest one and its amount increased only progressively over the years it was valuable and at times determining support to projects related to our languages.

In Brittany projects could be supported with the aid of European funding in such fields as varied as publishing, the audio-visual industry, bilingual road signs, Breton press, research and the exchange of experiences between different European regions. Furthermore, this budget line is also a sign of the EU's recognition of the diversity of our languages and cultures.

This support is of even greater importance for the minority languages spoken in France in the light of the Council of State's declared opinion, at the request of the Prime Minister, that the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages is anti-constitutional in light of the amendment to the French constitution in 1992 favouring a referendum on the Maastricht Treaty. The amendment read that "the language of the Republic is French". This amendment as described at the time, was aimed at preserving "linguistic pluralism" in Europe.

The suppression or reduction of budget line B3-1006 would very seriously affect Breton and the other regional languages in France, which receive modest funding from the State and are confronted with juridical and administrative obstacles, unlike French which benefits from large financial support and juridical and administrative protection.

It is for this reason, that confident of the European Parliament's role in guaranteeing cultural and linguistic pluralism in defending the cultural richness of the European Union and the rights of its citizens irrespective of the language they speak, that we ask that action be immediately taken to reestablish European *support for regional and minority languages.*

Tangi LOUARN (Vice President) Jean-Louis LATOUR (President)Language Division Kuzul Sevenadurel Breizh/Conseil Culturel de Bretagne, 7, straed Jeneral Guillaudot/7 rue du Général Guillaudot, BP3166, F35031 Rennes/Roazhon Cedex, Brittany

European Parliament calls for Multimedia Language Courses as an on-line Service

During its March 97 plenary session in Strasbourg the European Parliament adopted an important report on the Information Society, Culture and Education. It was prepared on behalf of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media by Eluned Morgan MEP, a Welsh-speaking parliamentarian.

The report is a response to the proposals on the development of a multilingual information society and Ms. Morgan's report lays heavy emphasis on the cultural and educational aspects of the proposed multiannual programme. In the recital of the resolution, which was adopted by Parliament, it is stated that the European model of the Information Society must be driven by democratic, social, cultural and educational concerns, and not dominated by economic and technological interests. It is also observed that the cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe is a strength to be built upon in terms of the production of multimedia educational and cultural products, as is its creativity and strong publishing tradition. The resolution welcomes the Multilingual Information Society proposal of the European Commission, for which the Parliament had requested a legal basis of Articles 128 & 130, while regretting the size of the budget, given the ambitious and important cultural objectives of the measures proposed, and insisted that awareness of linguistic diversity is incorporated in all Community Information Society programmes and initiatives.

The text adopted included a number of amendments proposed by Ms. Morgan herself and the most significant one calls on the Commission to create and provide free multimedia language courses in each of the member states' languages [including lesser used languages] to be available as an on-line service.

Ms. Morgan was warmly congratulated on the quality of her report and the resolution was adopted by a substantial majority. Let us hope that due account will be taken of the many valuable proposals contained in the resolution - in particular those relating to our languages.

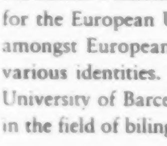
D Ó Riagáin

Publications

Between Alps and Adriatic-The Slovenes in the European Union (The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Brussels Information Center, 1996, ISBN 90-74851-32-0). The Slovenes occupy an area extending from the north Adriatic along the eastern Alps and up to the western edge of the Danube plain.

Significant numbers of native speakers outside of the Slovene Republic established in 1991 are also to be found in Austria, Italy, Hungary and Croatia. This, the fifth volume in the European Languages Series is devoted to the Slovene minorities in Italy and Austria. Out of all the minorities in Italy and Austria, Slovene is the only Slavic language which comes into direct contact with the two main Indo-European linguistic groups: the Latin group and the Germanic group. The booklet successively describes the Slovene community in Italy and the Slovene community in Austria. It presents their socio-linguistic situation through the cultural, social, economic and political life of each community. The communities have suffered in the past, but are now benefiting from their relationship with the newly formed Republic of Slovenia. The booklet, which is available in English, French, German, Italian, and Slovene, was written by M. Bojan Brezigar, journalist and director of the main Slovene daily newspaper in Italy. Mr. Brezigar is a Vice-President of the Bureau.

L'Europe des Langues - Miguel Siguan. Published by Pierre Mardaga, Publishers. 200 pages. ISBN: 2-87009-618-6. 'L'Europe des Langues' offers the general reader a global and lucid approach to linguistic questions in Europe. Miguel Siguan takes us from the origins of European linguistic pluralism to present day EU activities in the field of languages. He describes relations, which are at times very close and complex, between language and national identity and reminds us of policies adopted by different states in dealing with linguistic diversity within their state. He also provides an analysis of language behaviour in societies where more than one language coexists together in areas where English is constantly present. The problems of language teaching and bilingual education are also dealt with. The whole study is guided by the author's ambition to trace the tracks of a linguistic policy for the European Union aimed at promoting multilingualism amongst Europeans while at the same time respecting their various identities. Miguel Siguan, Emeritus professor at the University of Barcelona is one of the most recognised experts in the field of bilingualism and language contact.

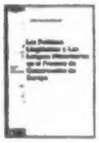


Bilingualism and Education

A Bibliography on European Regional or Minority Languages,. Eds: R.S. Tjeerdsma, M.B. Stuijt, Pub: Fryske Akademy, Mercator Education, Postbus 54, NL-8900 The Netherlands. Email: mercator@fa.knaw.nl ., ISBN 90-6171-836-8. A bibliography of 1,734 titles relating to: multilingualism, minority language education, second language acquisition and bilingual education. Both specialist and general entries are included to appeal to a broader readership from educationalists and others in the academic world to professionals in policy related fields, such as journalists, lawyers and teaching staff. The book is therefore of interest to anybody with an interest in the promotion and defence of minority languages. Most of the entries discuss minority languages within Europe but works on minorities outside of Europe have been included where an article or book was considered relevant for reasons of methodology. As regards geographical coverage, the editors have aimed to provide representative data on language communities within the EU, while for other European countries basic information has been given. The 1,734 entries published here are only part of a much larger database being compiled and continually updated by Mercator-Education. The database can be consulted on line. For further information contact ME at the address above or at the following numbers:

+ 31 58 21 13 14 14, fax;
+ 31 58 2131409, http:
//www.fa.knaw.nl/uk/mercator/fa-merc.html.

Minoritetsspråk I Europa: Sigve Gramstad, Pub: det Norske Samlaget, oslo 1996.139 pp, ISBN: 82-521-4849-2. Brief descriptions of the minority language situation in 23 different European countries. The information is presented for each country through a general introduction of the languages spoken, their legal status, geographical locations and their daily usage. The second half of the book discusses and explains the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and Norway's ratification of it. Detailed colored maps of where the languages are spoken are reproduced in the final pages. The book is useful for anybody seeking basic information on minority languages spoken throughout Council of Europe countries.



Las Políticas Lingüísticas y las lenguas Minoritarias en el proceso de Construcción de Europa: Josep M. Sanmartı Roset. 448 pp, pub: Instituto Vasco de Administración Pública/Herri-Arduralaritzaren Euskal Erakundea, ISBN 84-7777-151-0. A very detailed account of the linguistic situation in Europe today with special emphasis on the situation of minority languages in the 15 EU member states. An overall picture is given in the prologue which describes the difficulties in grouping the languages' situations according to different criteria. Chapters are also included on countries about to join the EU (Cyprus and Malta), countries close to the EU geographically (Norway and Switzerland) and a short chapter on the developing situation in Eastern Europe and the consequences for language minorities there. Subsequent chapters which take up more than half of this book discuss in detail the general linguistic situation in Europe today and how it will develop in the future. Themes covered include the role of minority languages in European institutions, declarations on linguistic minorities, and changes in policies towards minority language over the past few decades. The final chapter entitled " An open debate on the future of a plurilingual Europe" discusses all the arguments for and against a multilingual Europe and covers themes such as: the value of plurilingualism, immersion methods, sociopolitical aspects of bilingualism, different solutions for different situations, the Socrates programmes and Euronews: European Television in Five Languages.

"*It can pay to speak Irish*"This is one of the important messages in two new case studies presented under the title of Watching One's Tongue", which explore the social and economic benefits of Irish and other languages in modern Europe. The editor of the two case studies is Dr Máiréad Nic Craith, lecturer in Modern Irish language at the Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool. Watching One's Tongue presents two case studies on Galway and Tipperary outlining the links that can be made between the linguistic and business communities. In Northern Ireland, Irish is presented as a potential contributor to the peace process - as a common element in the heritage of both communities and of growing interest to Protestants as well as to Catholics. The strength of the language movement in Northern Ireland is the subject of two chapters. The studies also show how a minority language such as Irish can be marketable at international level. One chapter explores the demand for Irish in England. Commenting on the increasing interest in Irish outside of Ireland the editor Mairead Nic Craith said: "There are many customers for Irish outside of Ireland. The demand for Irish classes at our institute has exceeded all expectations. This interest is not just confined to our immigrants; many international students studying at the university have chosen Irish as part of their undergraduate studies.

Overall, Watching One's Tongue, addreses issues relating to a wide variety of languages in Europe, from Cornish to Catalan and from Welsh to Low German. The common successes and problems of regional languages are also highlighted. The conclusion is that there is a renewed interest in Europe's diversity and the rights of minorities must be protected. Further Information from: Dorothy Lynch, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, 1 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 38X

Gaelic gives major
Boost to Scottish Tourism

Gaelic language and culture is delivering a major boost to Scottish tourism and underlines the success of the EU-assisted Fàilte Gaelic tourism marketing campaign, according to new research undertaken for CNAG, the National Gaelic Development Agency. Key findings were revealed on the day which saw Glasgow's Celtic connections Festival host a debate on cultural tourism, and the lessons which can be learned from other similar cultures, including Ireland.

Allan Campbell, CNAG Chief Executive, said: 'Visitors are giving an emphatic yes to the Gaelic language and culture as part of their visits to Scotland's Highlands and islands. The survey also confirmed that Fàilte played a major role in increasing the awareness of visitors of what Gaelic culture and facilities have to offer. CNAG commissioned independent economist Steve Westbrook to survey visitors at ten locations across the Highlands and islands, representing a range of visitor attractions, overnight accommodation and travel gateways. Over 500 such face-to-face interviews conducted through the Summer of 1996 revealed a very distinctive picture about Gaelic cultural tourism's said Mr. Campbell.

CNAG's Development Director and architect of the Fàilte cultural tourism initiative outlined the key conclusion: 'The economic contributions made by overseas visitors is crucial - not just Europeans but those from the Scottish Diaspora markets of the United States, Canada and Australasia in particular. Such Diaspora visitors, together with the Irish, are twice as numerous as the Gaelic attractions in the survey, than the average for the Highlands in general. This finding bears out research commissioned earlier in the year which revealed that over half - 52% - of the world's active learners of Gaelic are in North America. This aspect of the survey underlines the importance of cultural and ancestral ties in modern day tourism and the need to reinforce our efforts to reach both this group and the European visitor. Overall, the findings support the initiatives of the Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board (HOST) and the Scottish Tourist Board nationally to encourage higher spending and overseas visitors to the more peripheral communities of Scotland'.

David McCrossan, CNAG's Economic Development Officer added 'Our survey findings also demonstrate the practical economic value of Gaelic in tourism. Visitors to the new generation of Gaelic attractions which have appeared in the past three years, such as AROS in Skye, Calanais and Taigh Chearsabhagh in the Western Isles, appear to spend more than the typical visitor, on publications and music, but also learners' materials. The picture for the future is also encouraging and there is a clear message for hotel, bed and breakfast and visitor attraction operators. On their next trip, over 60% of visitors would be more likely to visit a Gaelic attraction, and 30% to stay in Gaelic-speaking accomodation.

When pressed to show their commitment to acquiring the language on their next visit, a significant proposition indicated an interest in spending a week learning Gaelic as part of their next visit here. When set in the context of the overall numbers of visits represented by our survey, interest is very significant indeed, especially since 90% of the respondents spoke no Gaelic.

In conclusion Allan Canpbell said: 'This imoprtant new survey confirms that Gaelic may be a minority langauge, but for the visitor, it is a majority interest.'

Allan Campbell, CNAG Tel:+ 44 1463 234138

Welsh Teachers prepare to leave for Argentina

Three teachers of Welsh have recently left for Chubuts province in Argentina where they will spend a year teaching local learners of all ages. Hazel Charles Evans, a school teacher form Llenelli, will make her home in Esquel, a small town in the foothills of the Andes, where she will help the local community to revive their Welsh culture and language. Dewi Evans, a lecturer from the University of Dublin, will travel with Hazel and take up his new life in Trelew, a city of 30,000 inhabitants in the Chubut valley, and there will continue the excellent work of earlier volunteer teachers, sent through the Wales Argentina Society. At the end of March the third teacher, Sian Eleri Hughes, a young lecturer from Trinity College, Carmarthen, will start her job in Gaimamn, perhaps the center of Welsh interest in Argentina.

The three teachers were selected in December as the first part of the Welsh language project in Argentina. The project is funded by the Welsh Office and managed by the British Council in Wales. A steering group of four representatives of different organizations will oversee the project. The voluntary efforts of this Association over the last six years have done much to stimulate Welsh in Chubut and without their early work this project might not have come about.

Later in the year a group of young Argentine Welsh teachers will travel to Wales, some to develop their language skills, some to develop their teaching skills and some to undergo journalism training with the Thompson Foundation. On their return they will help to improve the availability of Welsh material in the local media. A key objective of the project is to strengthen the skills of local teachers of Welsh and to enhance the role of Welsh in the local media. This will develop a sustainable resource which will not need to rely on volunteers from Wales.

Further details from; David Higgs, The British Council, 28 Park Place, Cardiff CF1 3QE.

Assembly of **European Regions**

(AER) Committee VI Ad hoc Working Group on **Regional** and **Minority languages**

Guidelines accepted by the AER Bureau at its meeting in Weimar, in April 1996

General principles

1. All languages are equal and have the potential to be used for all linguistic functions. Any statement to the contrary should be publicly refuted by the Authorities.

2. The development of languages and the communities that speak them is intimately related to socio-economic facts which influence the community from within or especially from without.

3. In as much as, of all the social attributes of a human being, his or her language is the most fundamental, as it allows the person to relate to a specific social group, the maintenance of the languages of long-established autochthonous groups is of fundamental social importance.

4. The diversity of languages in Europe is a source of cultural and intellectual wealth, not least because each language moulds the way its speakers interpret the world; and as a resource this diversity should be conserved and encouraged in a spirit of mutual tolerance and respect.

Rights and Obligations

5. Each speaker of a European regional or minority language has a right to be regarded as a member of a social group based in a given territory, whose collective rights to exist as such must be fully acknowledged and respected. This document adopts the definition of such languages and their groups used in the Council of Europe's European Charter/Convention for Regional or Minority Languages.

6. Measures should be encouraged in the field of economic, agricultural, industrial, housing and other land use planning with the specific aim of bringing about a greater cohesion of such social groups. Measures in this field which may (even unintentionally on the part of the planners) cause or contribute to the break-up of such social groups should be avoided.

7. In cases where there is no standard or written form of the language, it is the responsibility of the authorities to give whatever support is necessary to a suitable private or academic organisation, in order that it can develop such a written form.

8. In their dealings with a speaker of a regional or minority language living inside the traditional area where such a language is spoken, the competent authorities and public servants at each tier of government should, as policy, adapt to his or her language, rather than expect or oppose the converse.

   The knowledge of more than one language on the part of a bi-or multilingual person should not be used by a public authority or body as an excuse to deny that person's right to use his or her own language in dealing with that authority or body.

9. The competent authorities for the education system should ensure that all children whose parents wish them to learn a regional or minority language, living inside the traditional area where such a language is spoken, are offered sufficient training in that language to be able to communicate both orally and in writing in it, by the end of their compulsory schooling.

   In cases where language attitudes among parents or in the wider community, as a result of ideological or other social pressures in the past, are not favourable towards such learning, all authorities with competence in the area should actively promote the improvement of such attitudes.

   Wherever possible, these same principles should also apply to members of the European travelling communities, which have no territorial base.

AER Practice

In order to put into practice these principles, the Assembly adopts the following measures:

10. As regards the working languages of the Assembly, any representative may make a speech in a language other than the official languages of the Assembly. In this case, the representative shall him/herself provide a translated version in one of those languages. Interpretation into the other languages of the Assembly by the interpreters of the meeting may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

    As far as is possible, and wherever applicable, each meeting of the Assembly will include among its working languages, the language of the territory where the meeting is held, so that its speakers can use it freely.

    Similarly and as far as is feasible, the Assembly will reply to correspondence in any regional or minority language, in the same language.

11. The Assembly strongly recommends that its members incorporate these principles into their own language policy, especially in those cases where a territorial language other than the official language of the State (or one of them when there are several) is spoken.

    Wherever and whenever it has sufficient conclusive evidence that a particular language groups's rights are not being adequately respected in any European region (whether or not it belongs to the AER) or country, by one or more tiers of government, the Assembly of European Regions affirms its right to draw to public attention such practices and to make representations to the competent national and international organisations, as a contribution to the peaceful co-existence of all the peoples of Europe.

If the offending authority is a member, the Assembly may apply the appropriate internal measures foreseen in its statutes.

12. The Assembly also affirms its right to denounce any public statements or attitudes contrary to the linguistic diversity of Europe, and especially in so far as they are aimed, or can be construed as being aimed, against the continued existence of any regional or minority language, or the support being legitimately and legally given to it.

13 The Assembly will strive to develop stable informational links with organisations concerned with the protection of national minorities and the rights of regional and minority languages, in order to ensure the greatest possible level of mutual cooperation.

14 The Assembly invites all its members and other organisations to do all within their power to disseminate this document and the principles contained therein as widely as possible.

The **First** Book

An ABC-book (primer, syllabary) is the first book one comes across when first learning to read or to teach a language. The very first ABC-Books appeared in the Middle Ages in xylograph (wood carving) already before the art of book printing was invented. One such ABC Book has been preserved in the Milan library and the drawings contained in it are those of none other than Leonardo da Vinci. An ABC-Book is a reflection of a people's mentality. It is a miniature encyclopedia in which information on people's achievements in different spheres of life such as geography, history, and culture can be found. The first elementary school book is a symbiosis of pedagogy and linguistics. It is a symbol, of knowledge and of the school. When Gepetto sold his coat in order to buy a book for a wooden doll called Pinnochio, the book he bought was a primer!

The aim of the ABC-Book is to introduce the small child for the first time to the world of letters, this being the child's first step in reading its own mother tongue. ABC books are as different from one another as are nations and languages. For children in kindergartens, for the first grade pupil, for adults, the diversity and uniqueness to be found in ABC-Books cannot but be admired. This surprising diversity which is found in these books depends upon the inner structure of a language, a teaching method, polygraphic possibilities and a nation's mentality. In a primer just like in a water drop the demands of the epoch and the level of a nation's culture are reflected. It is a graphic example of the thinking of a nation and how that same nation thinks about its children's future.

Juris Cibuls from Latvia has a collection of about 1,000ABC-books from some 100 counties and in some 160 languages and dialects. The collection has been exhibited 73 times in museums, libraries, schools, clubs etc. throughout Latvia. In 1987 the collection was awarded a silver medal at the Exhibition of Achievements of national Economy of the USSR in Moscow. In 1996 his own Latvian primer (including two work books and methodological recommendations) was published and on display at the International Book Fair in Frankfurt last October. In addition he has written an ABC-book and reader in the local dialect of Purlova which belongs to the Latgalian language. Anyone with an interest in this subject or who would wish help him add to his collection need only write to the address below.

Juris Cibuls,A/k 147,LV-1050
Riga,LATVIA

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We welcome your letters, articles etc. Please send these to:

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THE EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES seeks to conserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Union, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland, and an AI in Belgium. It works in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe, the UN, UNESCO and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the European Commission, the Irish Government, the government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the Germanophone Community in Belgium. Rent-free accomodation is provided for its Brussels Information Centre by the Francophone Community in Belgium

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Euroschule 97

Dans ce numéro

Journée européenne

Linguapax

Rapport annuel

Télévision frisonne

La cinquième édition d'Euroschule s'est déroulée cette année dans la région germanophone du Schleswig du Nord, au Danemark. Organisé par le Deutscher Schul- und Sprachverein für Nordschleswig (DSSV), sous les auspices du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, l'événement a attiré plus de 500 élèves provenant de 11 communautés de langue moins répandue de 9 pays différents (Slovènes d'Autriche et d'Italie, Ladins d'Italie, Frisons des Pays-Bas, Saterfrisons et Sorabes d'Allemagne, Gallois et Écossais du Royaume-Uni, Irlandais d'Irlande, Bretons de France et Finlandais de Suède) en plus des élèves de la région où l'événement a eu lieu. Les premiers arrivés furent les Gallois et les derniers, les Écossais. L'événement a lieu tous les deux ans et les participants sont de jeunes enfants appartenant à des régions de langue moins répandue qui désirent rencontrer d'autres enfants étant dans la même situation qu'eux. Pendant cinq jours, ils ont participé ensemble à des activités et à des échanges d'expériences linguistiques et culturelles. Une brochure et un logo avaient été créés pour l'occasion et un exemplaire du logo avait été envoyé sur disque aux écoles participantes afin qu'elles puissent préparer leur propre matériel promotionnel (tee-shirts, autocollants, etc.).

A l'image des précédents Euroschule (Bretagne: 1989, Pays de Galles: 1991, Frise: 1993 et Trieste: 1995), le programme comportait une cérémonie d'ouverture avec des discours officiels, des salutations de la part de tous les groupes représentés, des excursions organisées à travers la ville, des événements musicaux, une journée sport, des soirées disco et bien d'autres activités. L'ouverture officielle s'est déroulée sur la place du marché de Tingleff, où les enfants ont écouté les élèves de l'école germanophone, Lugumklöster, chanter tous en chœur l'hymne d'Euroschule qu'ils ont repris avec eux. Les paroles et la musique de l'hymne, spécialement composées pour cet événement, avaient été envoyées à toutes les écoles concernées des mois auparavant afin que les élèves puissent l'apprendre à l'avance. Le co-vice-président du Bureau européen, Bojan Brezigar, s'est ensuite adressé aux enfants ainsi qu'aux parents et aux enseignants qui les accompagnaient en ces termes: *Vous parlez tous des langues différentes mais cela ne vous empêche pas de devenir et de rester amis. Toutes les langues ont le droit d'être sauvegardées et développées. Chacun a le droit de parler sa propre langue. Les petites et les grandes langues sont pareillement porteuses d'une histoire et d'une culture riches. Alors, soyez fiers de votre langue !*

Les enfants ont non seulement appris beaucoup de choses sur la culture et la langue des enfants des autres régions, mais ils ont également pu appréhender la culture et les traditions de la région d'accueil, le Schleswig du Nord. Le Schleswig est une région que l'Allemagne et le Danemark se sont disputées pendant de nombreuses années. En 1920, la région a été partagée entre ces deux pays: le Schleswig du Sud est allé à l'Allemagne (Schleswig-Holstein) et le Schleswig du Nord au Danemark (Sonderjylland). Quelque 20 000 personnes, sur une population de 250 000, parlent l'allemand dans cette région (de 3 929 Km carrés).

Les événements qui avaient été organisés ont permis aux enfants venus des régions étrangères de rencontrer et de connaître les élèves de la région et de se familiariser avec la culture locale tandis que leur séjour dans des familles leur a donné une expérience de première main. Malgré les différences de langues, il ne semble pas que la communication ait été un problème. Au cours d'une des journées, des enfants de la minorité finlandaise en Suède étaient les invités de l'école allemande d'Hadersleben et, après avoir brièvement visité l'école, ils se sont rendus avec leurs camarades germanophones au bowling du coin qui a ouvert ses portes spécialement pour l'événement. Comme l'a observé Ingeliese Kragh, un des élèves germanophones : *C'est drôle, chacun parle sa propre langue mais on arrive tous à se comprendre quand-même.*

L'événement a été une expérience pour les familles d'accueil également et certaines d'entre elles ont dit que grâce au fait qu'elles avaient accueilli des enfants provenant d'autres cultures minoritaires, l'esprit de leurs propres enfants s'était ouvert sur l'Europe et sur le monde qui les entourait. Les différentes cultures et habitudes ont étonné plus d'un enfant et notamment à l'heure des repas: les Écossais buvaient du thé au dîner, les Ladins mangeaient du pain à chaque repas, etc.

Finance par la Commission europeenne, le festival Euroschule est de plus en plus florissant apres chaque evenement. C'est une occasion unique pour les élèves des regions de langue minoritaire d'apprehender l'Europe qui les entoure, de rencontrer d'autres jeunes locuteurs de langue moins repandue et de développer des contacts avec eux. Le Bureau europeen pour les langues moins repandues assure la coordination generale et la continuite de cet evenement et il consacre beaucoup de temps à faire en sorte que le prochain Euroschule soit aussi reussi que les precedents.

Le prochain Euroschule se deroulera en 1999, dans les Hébrides, en Écosse. Cette décision a été prise par le Conseil du Bureau europeen lors de sa reunion à Charleroi, en Belgique. Pour de plus amples informations, veuillez contacter Donald Martin, 4 Airigh Ard, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis PA87 2UN, Ecosse.

Diarmaid Breathnach

Le Bureau européen: Rapport annuel

Introduction

Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues a entamé sa quatorzième année d'activité en 1996: quatorze années passées à agir et à parler au nom des quelque 50 millions de citoyens de l'UE qui parlent une langue autre que les langues officielles des Etats où ils vivent. Depuis 1984, le Bureau s'emploie à dévoiler le patrimoine linguistique caché de l'Europe et donne aux locuteurs des langues régionales ou minoritaires une voix sur la scène européenne. Cette voix fait partie intégrante de notre patrimoine culturel européen commun et enrichit le présent et l'avenir de l'Union que chaque citoyen contribue à former.

L'Europe, cette vaste zone géographique et culturelle, longtemps divisée par des rivalités et des conflits, cherche maintenant à s'unir et à bâtir un avenir de paix, d'harmonie et de prospérité pour tous ses peuples. Aujourd'hui, l'Europe reconnaît qu'on ne peut parvenir à cette paix et à cette unité qu'en respectant et en appréciant la riche diversité de ses nombreux peuples. Aucune langue n'est intrinsèquement supérieure à une autre mais quelques langues ont acquis un certain prestige en devenant les langues officielles d'États puissants. Il est maintenant reconnu que toutes les langues ont leur propre valeur unique et intrinsèque et que chacune d'entre elles enrichit l'expérience humaine dans son entier. Avec des comités representatifs dans 13 des 15 États membres de l'UE et des bureaux à Dublin et à Bruxelles employant neuf personnes en tout, le Bureau europeen pour les langues moins répandues joue un rôle capital pour sauvegarder la mosaïque linguistique de l'Europe et veiller à son avenir. Ce rapport trace les grandes lignes des activités poursuivies par le Bureau au cours d'une année pour assurer la continuité de cette mosaïque.

Création et Objectifs

Le 16 octobre 1981, à la suite d'une série de propositions de résolutions sur les langues et les cultures régionales, le Parlement européen a adopté la Résolution Arfé. Deux ans plus tard, une deuxième résolution a été adoptée demandant à la Commission des Communautes européennes de continuer à intensifier ses activités visant à promouvoir ces langues. Un des moyens de le faire était de créer une organisation qui représenterait les locuteurs des langues moins répandues au niveau européen.

L'objectif du Bureau est de promouvoir et de défendre les langues autochtones moins répandues ou régionales des pays appartenant à l'Union européenne ainsi que les droits linguistiques de ceux qui parlent ces langues. Un des buts du Bureau est de définir des cadres juridiques qui s'appliquent aux autorités à tous les niveaux (institutions européennes, États, régions, etc.) afin de garantir aux citoyens appartenant à une minorité linguistique tous les services dont ils ont besoin pour développer et utiliser leur langue dans la vie quotidienne.

Statut juridique

Le Bureau est enregistré aussi bien en Irlande qu'en Belgique en tant qu'Association sans but lucratif. Le Siège social et le Secrétariat général du Bureau se trouvent à Dublin et le Centre d'Information de Bruxelles a été ouvert en 1992. Lors de son Assemblée Annuelle de 1996, le Conseil du Bureau a décidé de changer le statut juridique de l'antenne du Bureau en Belgique pour que d'ASBL (Association sans but lucratif) elle devienne une AI (Association Internationale), ce qui convient mieux au caractère international de l'organisme.

Membres

Les Comités des États membres du Bureau comprennent des organisations représentatives culturelles, des institutions et des organismes officiels actifs dans le domaine des langues et cultures moins répandues. Les associations des membres sont organisées au sein des Comités des États membres. Les Comités sont représentés au sein d'un Conseil qui se réunit deux fois par an pour déterminer la politique et la stratégie du Bureau. Tous les trois ans, le Conseil élit un nouveau Conseil d'Administration composé de six personnes dont un président et deux vice-présidents.

Bureaux

Le Conseil et le Conseil d'Administration sont soutenus dans leur travail par le Secrétariat général, qui est situé à Dublin et exécute leurs décisions, en collaboration avec les Comités des États membres. La tâche principale du Siège social de Dublin est de maintenir des contacts avec les diverses institutions européennes, les Comités des États membres et de nombreuses associations et organisations officielles et bénévoles à travers toute l'Europe. D'autre part, il est responsable chaque année de la mise en œuvre d'un programme de travail composé de projets concrets. Le Centre d'Information de Bruxelles a été créé parce qu'on avait besoin que le Bureau européen soit représenté dans une des capitales européennes: Bruxelles. Le Centre d'Information vise à rassembler en un seul endroit tous les documents et les ouvrages de référence essentiels au sujet des minorités linguistiques (service de documentation). Par le biais de son travail rédactionnel et un service de presse régulier, il diffuse ensuite cette information et essaie de faire mieux connaître ces questions. De plus, on peut s'adresser au CIB pour être informé sur les divers programmes de l'UE susceptibles d'intéresser les communautés de langue moins répandue (service d'information). L'organisation d'événements culturels et de conférences à Bruxelles fait également partie de son programme de travail annuel.

Des exemplaires du rapport sont disponibles auprès des offices du Bureau. Prix 8 ecu, ISBN 1870675 096.

D. Breathnach

Déclaration du Bureau relative à la réduction du soutien financier pour l'Association sorabe

Le Conseil du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, composé de représentants des Comités des Etats membres de 13 pays de l'Union européenne, a appris avec consternation et inquiétude, lors de son Assemblée annuelle qui s'est tenue à Cottbus du 16 au 19 octobre 1997, que le gouvernement fédéral allemand avait l'intention de réduire de nouveau le soutien financier qu'il accorde à la Fédération pour le Peuple sorabe (Stiftung für das Sorbische Volk) d'un million de DM et de retirer petit à petit tout soutien financier à cette fondation au cours des prochaines années. Comme on ne peut pas espérer des Etats de la Saxe et du Brandenburg, déjà confrontés à des dificultés économiques considérables, qu'ils puissent combler la perte de ce soutien financier, il est à craindre qu'à moyen terme une grande partie des activités culturelles et scientifiques exécutées par et au nom du peuple sorabe devront être abandonnées en raison de manque de fonds.

Nous invitons le gouvernement fédéral à continuer d'honorer les termes de la Déclaration collective du premier ministre de l'Etat libre de la Saxe, du premier ministre de l'Etat du Brandenbourg et du Premier Ministere fédéral de l'intérieur *sur la création de la Fondation pour le peuple sorabe. Du 19 octobre, 1991 bien que nous reconnaissions qu'il soit actuellement necessaire d'être prudents dans les dépenses, et à continuer d'accorder à la fondation le soutien financier qu'elle reçoit actuellement.*

Nous aimerions rappeler au gouvernement fédéral et aux gouvernements des Etats de la Saxe et du Brandenbourg, dont les frontières ceignent les régions de peuplement traditionelles des Sorabes, leur responsabilité historique particulière vis à vis de ce petit peuple slave qui, à la suite des souffrances qu'il a endurées sous diverses autorités allemandes, n'est plus à même de produire suffisamment de ressources financières pour garantir la survie de sa culture et de ses langues.

Cottbus, Allemagne, le 18 octobre 1997.

Charte européenne

Le 25 septembre 1997, le Parlement suisse a voté pour ratifier la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires. Lorsque l'instrument de ratification suisse sera déposé au Conseil de l'Europe, cela portera à cinq le nombre des ratifications et la Charte entrera automatiquement en vigueur en tant que convention. Ceci est un autre jalon sur la voie ouverte en 1984 et un événement dont le Bureau peut être légitimement fier.

L'Italie a accepté de ratifier la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales. Ce sera la douzième ratification de Convention-cadre qui entrera donc également en vigueur en tant que convention. Ces développements concernant deux instruments juridiques fondamentaux du Conseil de l'Europe visant à protéger nos communautés et leurs langues forment l'un des événements les plus prometteurs et les plus heureux de ces dernières années.

Visites d'Étude - Nouveau Rapport

Depuis 1983, plus de 90 visites dans plus de 35 des communautés de langue moins répandue de l'Union européenne ont été organisées par le Bureau au nom de la Commission européenne. A ce jour, plus de 1 000 personnes ont participé à des visites. Ce programme, qui est financé à 100% par la Commission europeenne, permet d'étudier les structures éducatives, culturelles, administratives et médiatiques se rapportant aux langues et cultures régionales ou minoritaires de la communauté. Les participants rédigent des rapports sur leur visite, grâce à quoi on dispose de plus d'informations spécifiques à jour et de haute qualité sur les langues minoritaires à travers l'Union européenne. Le programme de visites d'étude vise avant tout à faire mieux connaitre la réalité européenne dans le domaine des langues régionales ou minoritaires et de leur évolution. Il faut que la cooperation entre les régions de langue minoritaire de l'Union fasse partie du processus d'intégration européenne et ces visites contribuent beaucoup à ameliorer les contacts et les échanges d'expérience à travers l'Union.

En 1996, la Commission a mis quelque 85 bourses à la disposition de participants représentant autant d'aspects des langues régionales ou minoritaires que possible et exerçant des responsabilités aux niveaux local, régional ou national. Leur compétence dans le thème principal de la visite a servi à faire mieux connaître ces domaines à autant de citoyens européens que possible. Parmi eux, figuraient des responsables de la promotion des langues et cultures régionales ou minoritaires, des journalistes spécialisés dans ce sujet et des formateurs et chercheurs travaillant dans les États membres de l'Union.

Dans le cadre du programme de 1995/96, des visites d'étude ont eu lieu dans les régions suivantes: la communauté slovène en Italie, la communauté danoise en Allemagne, l'Irlande du Nord, la communauté catalane en Sardaigne, le pays de Galles, la République d'Irlande et l'Autriche. Le Bureau vient de publier un rapport décrivant les expériences des participants pendant leur séjour dans les régions de langues moins répandues. Le rapport est divisé en chapitres et comprend des détails sur les participants ainsi que des sous-sections sur les organisations visitées dans les domaines de l'enseignement, des médias et de la vie sociale et culturelle.

Des exemplaires du rapport sont disponibles en anglais et en français auprès des offices du Bureau et coûtent 8 Ecus.

D. Breathnach

Les Dividendes de la Diversité -

Langue, Culture et Economie dans une Europe intégrée: Adam Price avec Caitríona O Toma et Allan Wynne Jones,

ISBN 90-74851-35-5. Prix: 5 Écus.

The
Diversity
Dividend

Cette publication, la cinquième dans la collection *Langues Vivantes* du Bureau européen, fait une analyse en profondeur des rapports entre la culture, la langue et l'économie.

Au fur et à mesure que l'Europe avance sur le chemin de l'intégration politique, une question semble cristalliser les préoccupations de nombreux citoyens à travers tout le continent: est-ce que la cohésion socioéconomique et la diversité culturelle et linguistique s'avéreront être des dimensions qui se renforcent ou qui s'excluent l'une l'autre dans la future construction de l'Europe ? En voulant donner une réponse à cette question, cette brochure explore les relations mutuelles complexes qui existent entre trois des phénomènes humains les plus fondamentaux et universels, à savoir la langue, la culture et l'économie, tels qu'ils se sont développés dans le contexte des communautés linguistiques minoritaires de l'Europe. Il ressort principalement de cette analyse que, dans le monde réel, peu de problèmes sont de nature purement économique. Leurs aspects économiques sont liés à leurs dimensions sociales et culturelles. La culture est dans l'économie et l'économie est dans la culture. La langue se trouve à la base des deux.

Une bibliographie détaillée et une liste des organisations-clés dans ce domaine sont à la disposition de toute personne désireuse d'obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur ce thème en s'adressant à: ***AGORA, Menter a Busnes, Science Park, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3AH, Pays de Galles; Tél : +44 1970 625561; Télécopie : +44 1970 611366***

Séminaire sur la Formation **des Enseignants**

Un séminaire intitulé *Langues moins répandues, Formation des Maîtres et Culture de la Paix* a eu lieu à Luxembourg du 28 au 30 novembre 1996. Le siège social de Dublin a organisé l'événement en étroite coopération avec le ministère de l'Éducation nationale et de la formation professionnelle du Luxembourg et UNESCO/LINGUAPAX. Linguapax est un projet de l'UNESCO visant à promouvoir la culture par le biais de l'éducation plurilingue. A l'origine de ce programme, on trouve l'idée selon laquelle dans notre société multiculturelle, le rôle des langues, qu'elles soient nationales, maternelles ou étrangères, est de plus en plus un facteur décisif dans le domaine socio-éducatif. Le projet Linguapax rassemble des chercheurs, des enseignants et des responsables de la planification dans le domaine de l'éducation de plusieurs pays. Des experts en formation des enseignants et en études consacrées à la paix ont participé à ce séminaire. Ils ont prononcé des communications allant de l'éducation et la valeur de la paix au Cambodge à la politique linguistique et la formation des maîtres dans une communauté divisée (Irlande du Nord).

Suite au séminaire, les organisateurs se sont réunis pour envisager de collaborer à un projet similaire dans un avenir proche.

Nous, les participants au séminaire *Langues Moins Répandues, Formation des Maîtres et Culture de la Paix*, qui s'est tenu à Luxembourg du 28 **au 30 novembre 1996,**

conscients du fait que:

- **le respect de la diversité** linguistique est un élément essentiel pour la construction d'une paix véritable et durable;
- **la nécessité de respecter** l'héritage linguistique et culturel riche et varié d'Europe est rarement inscrite dans les programmes de la formation professionnelle des enseignants;
- **malgré l'existence** d'une telle diversité dans presque tous les pays européens, on la considère trop souvent comme une menace contre la cohésion sociale et culturelle plutôt que comme une source d'enrichissement mutuel pour les majorités comme pour les minorités;

proposons:

1. qu'une brochure soit produite, visant à sensibiliser les futurs enseignants à la diversité linguistique, et que son contenu s'intègre dans la formation professionnelle des maîtres à travers l'Europe indépendamment de leurs disciplines. Il conviendra que la brochure puisse s'adapter aux critères en place dans les différents systèmes éducatifs.

La réalisation et la diffusion d'une telle brochure doivent faire l'objet d'un accord politique entre l'UE, le Conseil de l'Europe, l'UNESCO et les Etats membres de chaque organisme ou organisation. L'objectif principal de ce projet serait d'agir de façon positive en faveur du plurilinguisme et de l'interculturalisme et d'aboutir au développement d'une culture de la paix.

Le projet doit être adressé en premier lieu aux personnes ayant des pouvoirs de décision dans le domaine de la formation des maîtres.

Il conviendrait de lancer une campagne multimédia afin de se ménager le soutien des syndicats d'enseignants et autres organismes de ce genre.

*Cette proposition doit être examinée et initiée par les coordinateurs du séminaire - UNESCO / LINGUAPAX, **le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues et le Ministère de l'Education Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle, Luxembourg**. Cette proposition devrait être adoptée après l'accord des Etats membres.*

2. que dans la perspective du renforcement de notre sens communautaire et de notre respect mutuel, un module commun sur la diversité linguistique soit mis sur pied et utilisé dans divers cours de formation s'adressant aux futurs enseignants.

Cette proposition a été faite en réponse à une communication faite par Dr. Medwin Hughes de Trinity College, Carmarthen, au pays de Galles.

3. que pour répondre aux défis auxquels se trouvent confrontés les enseignants lorsqu'il s'agit de traiter des questions relatives à l'éducation plurilingue, aux relations interculturelles et au développement d'une culture de tolérance, de respect et de paix, des vidéos, des brochures et des posters traitant les questions les plus courantes soulevées par les parents et promouvant l'enseignement bilingue, soient produits.

4. que soient créés et mis sur pied des outils pédagogiques pour l'enseignement audiovisuel et l'enseignement par correspondance afin de faire mieux connaître l'héritage linguistique et culturel riche et varié des régions d'Europe.

*Des recommandations ont été faites concernant la réalisation de l'outil sur **la Dimension européenne du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues** et, s'il y a lieu, pour adapter le dossier afin de répondre aux besoins des écoles primaires et secondaires à travers l'Europe. Ceci serait également utile au niveau de la formation des maîtres.*

5. qu'un nouveau réseau d'éducation soit créé au sein de *Socrates* pour l'enseignement supérieur des / dans les langues moins répandues. On devrait donner priorité à l'adhésion aux communautés qui ne sont pas couvertes par le réseau existant (ex. les Slovènes en Carinthie)

6. qu'on élabore et distribue une publication offrant un résumé de tous les programmes éducatifs et notamment ceux qui sont destinés à la jeunesse - qu'ils soient organisés par l'UE, le Conseil de l'Europe ou l'UNESCO.

Cette information doit également être disponible sur Internet. On pourrait ajouter des informations sur diverses communautés linguistiques; ex: données-clés, noms et adresses des contacts.

Ce projet pourrait être entrepris par Mercator Education.

7. qu'une base de données bibliographiques soit créée sur le thème de la conférence - Langues moins répandues, Formation des Maîtres et Culture de la Paix.

Le European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) (le Centre européen pour les questions minoritaires), qui a récemment été établi, consentirait peut-être à entreprendre cette tâche.

8. que les Institutions européennes donnent le soutien nécessaire aux langues moins répandues en demandant l'introduction de ces langues dans tous les programmes éducatifs et en développant le concept de la citoyenneté européenne dans le contexte de la Conférence intergouvernementale.

En Bref

Une importante publication du Ministère de l'Intérieur Italien

Après avoir publié en 94 et 95 trois Rapports sur "L'état des Minorités en Italie", "L'Europe des Minorites", "Aspects culturels des Minorites d'ancien établissement en Italie", le ministère de l'Intérieur italien a fait paraitre et diffuser, récemment (en février 96) un volume à propos de : "Europe- culture et sauvegarde des Minorités". L'ouvrage a été soigné par le Bureau central pour les problèmes des zones de frontière et des Minorites ethniques" (Directeur Monsieur le Docteur Antonio Farace), sur la base de dossiers documentes, ainsi que les rapports précédents, de Monsieur le Docteur Giuseppe Mario Scalia, appartenant au même service. Objectif de la publication: "rassembler et faire connaitre les plus importants instruments au niveau international (chartes, conventions, déclarations, recommandations) élaborés pour assurer une dignité substantielle aux Minorités."

Les jeunes, appartenant surtout au domaine scolaire, sont les destinataires privilégiés de l'ouvrage. On le dit expressément dans l'introduction: "Eduquer la paix, éduquer la tolérance, cela signifie aussi mettre à la disposition des jeunes les matériels pouvant être employés pour bâtir des raisonnements, pour établir des stratégies de compréhension réciproque, pour évaluer la réalité en tant que complexité."

Il est on ne peut plus significatif que le volume ait paru lors de la présidence italienne de l'UE et ait été conçu comme une "contribution pour affirmer l'idée, le concept, de solidarité qui doit imprégner l'action sociale des institutions communautaires."

Jean Pezzoli

Amb l'occitan mai de colors !

Devant les tergiversations de France 3 Rhône Alpes Auvergne pour démarrer des émissions en langue d'oc et ce malgré un cahier des charges national qui l'y oblige, une cinquantaine d'associations, de syndicats, de groupements ou organismes de toutes sensibilités de la Région Auvergne ont décidé de soutenir l'appel du Collectif Auvergne Bourbonais Velay de l'audio-visuel pour réclamer des émissions en langue occitane sur France 3 Auvergne. Une démarche que le collectif résume par le slogan : "*amb l'occitan mai de colors !* " ou encore *pour une télévision régionale de proximité aux couleurs de la région Auvergne*, estimant que l'introduction de telles émissions serait un pas vers une télévision régionale plus proche des réalités de la région, moins "parisienne".

Suite à des campagnes auprès du CSA, aux délibérations de 250 communes auvergnates, à des courriers auprès de la station restés sans réponse durant quatre ans, le collectif a enfin reçu une réponse du nouveau directeur de France 3 Lyon qui fait état de toutes les difficultés qu'il entrevoit à de telles émissions (qui sont cependant possibles sur d'autres stations...).

Devant cette mauvaise volonté ou plutôt absence de volonté, le Collectif a décidé d'appeler la population à se manifester dans les rues de la capitale auvergnate pour un rassemblement qui se veut également festif, musical et en couleurs, avec en particulier plusieurs groupes de musique traditionnelle de la Région Auvergne y compris du Bourbonais non occitan (Nord de l'Allier) qui ne reste pas indifférent à cette revendication.

C'est pour les organisateurs, le besoin d'*enraciner les citoyens dans le contexte actuel de mondialisation et ce, dans un esprit d'ouverture et d'accueil et non d'exclusion*, qui motive une telle mobilisation. Une première pour Clermont Ferrand et l'Auvergne qui n'avait pas jusqu'à présent fait beaucoup parler d'elle en matière d'identité régionale mais aussi un discours qui prend à contrepied toutes les tentatives de récupération de la sensibilité régionale par les tenants de l'exclusion nationale. Une façon de dire également à toutes les sensibilités démocratiques de la société qu'une véritable reconnaissance de la diversité culturelle, une nouvelle définition de la citoyenneté qui n'exclue plus les langues et cultures de France sont indispensables. Le centralisme et le jacobinisme désignés comme les alliés objectifs de l'extrême droite en quelque sorte...

Collectif Auvergne Bourbonais Velay de l'audio-visuel BP 602 15006 Aurillac cedex
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5.000 Corses demandes la signature de la Charte européenne par la France

Après avoir pris connaissance de l'avis du Conseil d'État (France) déclarant *la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou/et minoritaires* du Conseil de l'Europe non conforme à la Constitution, il s'est créé un "Collectif pour la langue" qui regroupe des associations culturelles, des syndicats et le Conseil Économique, Social et Culturel de la Corse. Pour attirer l'attention du gouvernement sur la volonté du Collectif de voir la Constitution amendée afin que la France signe et ratifie la Charte, le Collectif a organisé une manifestation à Ajacciu en avril dernier où plus de cinq mille personnes ont défilé dans les rues dans le calme et la dignité.

Une délégation du Collectif, au sein de laquelle Charles Castellani représentait l'association Scola Corsa Bastia et le Comité Corse du BELMR, a été reçue par le Préfet de Région.

Ce dernier a fait état de certaines dispositions de la Charte qui ne sont pas conciliables avec les règles et principes des valeurs constitutionnelles comme l'indivisibilité de la République, l'égalité des citoyens devant la loi et naturellement a rappelé l'article 2 de la Consitution. Il a ensuite proposé une rencontre au cours de laquelle on ferait le bilan des différentes actions conduites par le gouvernement en faveur de la défense et de la promotion des langues régionales de France et en particulier pour la langue corse. Le Préfet a également fait état des "sommes considérables engagées par le gouvernement au bénéfice de la langue corse".

La délégation a rappelé qu'elle entendait œuvrer pour la sauvegarde et la promotion de la langue corse, que cette manifestation n'était pas une fin mais un début et a chargé le Préfet de transmettre au Gouvernement toute sa détermination. Une motion a ensuite été remise au Préfet (voir texte par ailleurs). La manifestation s'est disloquée dans le calme.

"Conformément au discours de Bretagne du Président de la République, les organisations signataires demandent que la France ratifie la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires.

Comme l'attestent:

- le vote par deux fois répété de l'Assemblée de Corse en faveur de ce texte;

- la position exprimée par le Conseil Économique, Social et Culturel de la Corse;

- l'éventail des organisations signataires de cette déclaration;

- le soutien et la participation de nombreux partis politiques à notre manifestation du 5 avril 1997,

il existe un large consensus autour de la Charte dans la société corse.

Au niveau national, la même volonté s'exprime dans d'autres régions particulièrement concernées au travers d'élus et d'organisations associatives, syndicales et politiques.

Les organisations signataires estiment qu'il s'agit là d'aspirations démocratiques et que la France s'honorerait à reconnaître la diversité culturelle sur son territoire. C'est dans cet esprit que doit être révisé l'article 2 de la Constitution qui, en l'état actuel, ne permet pas d'introduire, dans l'espace juridique français, la notion de pluralisme culturel.

Il s'agit aussi pour la France de soutenir un texte du Conseil de l'Europe dont les fondements sont garantie de paix.

S'inquiétant de la situation de la langue corse et de nombreuses langues régionales, les signataires estiment qu'il y a urgence à protéger par le droit ce qui constitue une partie du patrimoine culturel de l'humanité.

Mais il faut aussi que des volontés publiques aillent dans le sens de la préservation et de la promotion des langues régionales par l'élaboration d'un plan de développement de l'enseignement de la langue et de la culture corses prévu par l'article 53 du statut particulier de l'île.

Journée européenne des Langues : sensibilisation réussie !

Le Bureau européen continue de recevoir des coupures de presse sur la pléthore d'événements qui se sont déroulés dans toute l'Europe pour célébrer la Journée européenne des Langues le 12 avril dernier (voir CB 14.1). La presse et le public en général ont reçu clairement le message concernant la mosaique linguistique et culturelle de l'Union européenne dont les citoyens parlent plus de 45 langues en tout.

La Corse a signalé que plus de 4 000 personnes avaient participé à une manifestation à Ajaccio appelant le gouvernement français à ratifier la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires. Les journaux français ont aussi beaucoup parlé des autres manifestations de ce genre qui ont eu lieu dans des communautés minoritaires à travers toute la France. Certains événements se sont révélés pleins d'imagination. Ainsi, à Pontivy, en Bretagne, 1 500 personnes ont participé à l'inauguration d'une sculpture en chêne symbolisant le bilinguisme qui a survécu au temps qui passe. La presse locale et nationale y ont consacré des articles (*Le Monde, Ouest France, Le Télégramme*). Ces journaux ont également publié les résultats d'une enquête sur la langue bretonne qui indiquent que 88% des Bretons sont attachés à leur langue, que 80% veulent qu'elle soit enseignée à l'école et que 20% de la population bretonne la parlent régulièrement.

Si on devait présenter un prix à la communauté minoritaire qui a fait le plus d'efforts pour cette Journée européenne des Langues, celui-ci irait à la communauté albanaise en Italie. En effet, les petits villages dispersés qui forment cette communauté ont organisé d'innombrables événements. Le village de Caraffa di Catanzaro par exemple, a mis en place quantité d'activités tout au long de cette journée, à commencer par un concours de la meilleure histoire en albanais racontée par des grands-parents, ainsi qu'une exposition photographique intitulée "gens et lieux de la minorité ethnique en Calabre", un défilé en costumes traditionnels albanais, une exposition ethnographique et enfin un exposé sur "la minorité ethnique de Caraffa en Europe". Des événements similaires ont eu lieu dans au moins 16 autres villages de langue albanaise éparpillés à travers le sud de l'Italie: Greci, Frascnieto, Plataci, Spezzano Albanese, San Demetrio Corone, San Martino di Finita, San Basile, Santa Sofia d'Epiro, Lungro, Vaccarizzo Albanese, Piana degli Albanesi, Contessa Entellina Mongrassano, Barile et Castrovillari.

Les enfants étaient au cœur de cette célébration de la Journée européenne des Langues.

La date avait été spécialement choisie pour coïncider avec *Euroschule*, le rassemblement européen d'enfants d'écoles bilingues, qui cette année a eu lieu dans la communauté germanophone au Danemark (voir article principal en première page). De la même façon, Badia, dans la communauté ladine en Italie, a organisé un rassemblement d'élèves d'écoles ladines ainsi qu'une cérémonie de remise de prix récompensant un concours de littérature ladine. On a pu lire dans le journal *La USC di Ladins* que la jeune Veronika Sommavilla était l'heureuse gagnante de ce concours grâce à son œuvre dramatique " Tonin no l vel morir". Dans la communauté slovène en Italie, le journal *Nedelja* a consacré une page entière à *Eurosola*, le rassemblement de 500 enfants qui ont participé à toutes sortes d'activités passionnantes (sport, musique, danse, théâtre, journalisme, design) tout au long de la journée. Bruxelles, la capitale européenne, a bien entendu été de la fête et des groupes d'enfants appartenant aux minorités wallonne et germanophone ont pris part à des activités culturelles au *Festival des Langues de Bruxelles*. Le journal local, *Le Rappel*, a notamment mentionné qu'une troupe de marionnettistes de Liège avait amusé les enfants avec des spectacles en allemand, en wallon et en français.

Tandis que toutes les activités organisées pour célébrer cette Journée européenne des Langues du 12 avril dernier étaient très divertissantes, le message important suivant a été transmis aux enfants aussi bien qu'aux adultes: les locuteurs des langues minoritaires font partie d'un riche pa-trimoine linguistique. Cet article ne mentionne que quelques communautés minoritaires mais toutes ont pris une part active à ces célébrations dont on trouvera le détail dans le dossier qui est maintenant disponible auprès du siège social du Bureau européen à Dublin.

Caoimhe Ní Lochlainn

Assemblée ouverte des Cultures en Europe

Jusqu'à ces derniers temps, la démocratie se limitait aux États-nations souverains monolithiques. Dans un passé récent, les États monolithiques ont évolué pour tenter de parvenir à un équilibre entre l'homogénéité et l'individualisme.

La première étape dans un tel processus est sans aucun doute l'introduction d'une représentation des cultures. On peut percevoir les cultures comme étant un processus horizontal portant des graines culturelles par-delà toutes les frontières et aboutissant à l'infinie variété d'expressions culturelles de l'humanité. Un tel processus complète l'État souverain qui en soi est un concept vertical, un prisonnier à l'intérieur de ses propres frontières qui cherche sans cesse à s'évader et à contrôler de plus vastes territoires au sein de frontières bien gardées.

Par "cultures", on n'entend pas seulement celles pourvues d'une langue ou d'un dialecte, régionales et/ou nomades, ayant leurs propres traditions et modes de vie, mais aussi les cultures des immigrants et des émigrants implantées en Europe qui ne sont pas représentées en tant que telles dans les pays où elles existent. Il n'est pas du tout question ici de ressources culturelles héritées telles que des opéras ou des soirées de gala, ni d'édifices ou de territoires mais des voix auxquelles on devrait apporter une tribune et l'assurance qu'elles seront écoutées et qu'on leur accordera le rôle qui leur revient dans le processus de décision.

Une *Assemblée ouverte des Cultures en Europe* offrirait un forum à un nombre croissant d'hommes et de femmes qui apporteraient l'évidence et la preuve de leurs capacités selon deux critères: la confiance dont ils disposent au sein de leur culture ainsi que leurs connaissances et leur qualité d'autorité dans le domaine en question. Ils ne seraient pas élus à des fonctions permanentes, ne seraient pas directement intéressés dans aucun poste rémunéré par un salaire mais seraient chargés de tâches spécifiques pour débattre certaines questions proposées par l'Union européenne ou les cultures elles-mêmes. On attendrait d'eux qu'ils donnent leurs réactions aux lois qui sont proposées ou à d'autres initiatives susceptibles d'avoir un effet sur ces cultures. Après avoir accompli une ou plusieurs missions de ce genre avec dignité et succès, ils seraient éligibles à une assemblée: "L'Assemblée des Cultures".

La création d'une telle assemblée serait un processus organique qui démarrerait avec un petit nombre de cultures. On commencerait par établir dans le courant de 1997 une "Ambassade" des Cultures en Europe qui serait basée à Bruxelles. Le concept actuel d'indépendance se limite en grande partie à celui de l'État-nation. Ce concept ne peut pas marcher au niveau européen car cela signifierait cent États nationaux. Ce dont on a besoin par conséquent, c'est d'un système bilatéral au moyen duquel l'UE protège les cultures et les cultures soutiennent l'UE. Le concept de cultures en contact continu les unes avec les autres est la base idéale pour créer une conscience européenne générale parmi les diverses communautés de l'Europe. A l'heure actuelle, ces communautés ont une compréhension limitée de l'Union européenne et la création de l'assemblée susmentionnée aurait des répercussions sociales positives pour elle.

L'Europe doit affirmer sa propre conscience et sa propre identité pour éviter de devenir le terrain de jeux des Titans qui l'entourent: l'Amérique, la Russie, l'Asie. L'Union européenne n'est pas là que pour améliorer le commerce et l'économie. Jean Monnet, un des cofondateurs, a dit que s'il devait tout recommencer depuis le début, il commencerait par la culture. Il est donc essentiel d'établir cette assemblée sans plus tarder. La présence d'une "Assemblée des Cultures" officiellement reconnue donnerait de l'espoir aux cultures menacées par les États nationaux souverains. Cette ambassade-assemblée pourrait être constituée de gens qui prendraient la parole au nom de tous ceux qui sont mal représentés ou n'ont aucune représentation politique. Lors d'une discussion sur la représentation des cultures avec M. Michael D. Higgins, Président du Conseil des Ministres de la Culture de l'Union européenne durant la présidence irlandaise, la formulation suivante, qui garantit l'action de l'UE dans ce domaine, a été choisie : "l'Union européenne se reconnait comme étant la gardienne des cultures européennes".

Pour de plus amples informations sur cette nouvelle assemblée, veuillez contacter:

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Assemblée parlementaire RECOMMANDATION 1333 (1997)

relative à la langue et à la culture aroumaines

1. L'Assemblée est préoccupée par la situation critique de la langue et de la culture aroumaines qui existent depuis plus de deux millénaires dans la péninsule balkanique.

2. Alors que plus de 500 000 personnes parlaient l'aroumain au début du XXème siècle, il en reste aujourd'hui environ la moitié dispersée en Albanie, Bulgarie, Grèce, "ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine" et Serbie, leurs différentes patries, ainsi qu'en Roumanie, en Allemagne, aux Etats-Unis et en Australie. La majorité sont des personnes âgées. L'aroumain, langue minoritaire, est menacé.

3. On a pris conscience de l'ampleur du problème avec l'élargissement de la coopération culturelle aux pays des Balkans, patrie de l'aroumain.

4. Le sort de la langue et de la culture aroumaines est analogue à celui de nombreuses cultures d'Europe perdues ou en voie de disparition. Pourtant, la stabilité sur notre continent, et en particulier dans la région des Balkans, dépend de l'acceptation d'un système pluraliste de valeurs culturelles.

5. Les Aroumains ne formulent pas de revendication d'ordre politique et demandent seulement qu'on les aide à sauvegarder leur langue et leur culture, dont la disparition paraît inévitable si les institutions européennes, et notamment le Conseil de l'Europe, ne lui apportent pas cette aide.

6. L'Assemblée rappelle les textes qu'elle a adoptés sur des questions connexes et en particulier la Recommandation 928 (1981) relative aux problèmes d'éducation et de culture posés par les langues minoritaires et les dialectes en Europe, la Recommandation 1283 (1996) relative à l'histoire et à l'apprentissage de l'histoire en Europe et la Recommandation 1291 (1996) relative à la culture yiddish.

7. Dans ce dernier il était question de créer, sous les auspices du Conseil de l'Europe, un "laboratoire des minorités ethniques dispersées" qui aurait notamment pour mandat de promouvoir la survie des cultures minoritaires ou leur mémoire, de procéder à des enquêtes sur les personnes qui parlent encore les langues minoritaires, d'enregistrer, de recueillir et de préserver les monuments issus de ces cultures et les éléments qui témoignent de leur langue et de leur folklore, de publier les documents de base et de promouvoir une législation protégeant les cultures minoritaires de la discrimination ou de la destruction.

8. L'Assemblée recommande au Comité des Ministres:

i. d'encourager les Etats balkaniques où vivent les Aroumains à signer, ratifier et mettre en œuvre la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires et de les inviter à soutenir les Aroumains, notamment dans les domaines suivants :

a. enseignement dans leur langue maternelle;
b. services religieux en aroumain dans leurs églises;
c. journaux, revues, émissions de radio et de télévision en aroumain;
d. soutien à leurs associations culturelles;

ii. d'inviter les autres Etats membres à soutenir la langue aroumaine, par exemple en créant des chaires universitaires de cette matière et en diffusant en Europe les produits les plus intéressants de la culture aroumaine au moyen de traductions, anthologies, cours, expositions ou productions théâtrales;

iii. de créer des bourses pour des artistes, des écrivains, des chercheurs et des étudiants, issus des groupes minoritaires aroumains de tous les pays balkaniques, pour leur permettre d'œuvrer et de créer utilement dans les domaines de la langue et de la culture aroumaines;

iv. de demander au Conseil de la coopération culturelle, en collaboration avec les centres académiques aroumains reconnus, d'établir une coordination des centres culturels aroumains de toute l'Europe;

v. d'inviter les ministères de l'Education des Etats membres à inclure l'histoire de la culture aroumaine dans les manuels d'histoire européenne;

vi. de rechercher la coopération ainsi que le partenariat d'organisations, fondations et autres instances intéressées du secteur privé afin de mener à bien ces recommandations;

vii. de prendre en compte la culture aroumaine dans le suivi qu'il donnera à la Recommandation 1291 (1996), notamment en ce qui concerne le "laboratoire des minorités ethniques dispersées".

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1. Discussion par l'Assemblée le 24 juin 1997 (18ème séance). Voir Doc. 7728, rapport de la commission de la culture et de l'éducation (rapporteur: M. de Puig). *Texte adopté par l'Assemblée* le 24 juin 1997 (18ème séance).

Jeunesse

Depuis sa création, le Bureau a toujours souligné l'importance de la jeunesse et s'est appliqué à ouvrir l'Europe aux jeunes locuteurs des langues moins répandues. A part quelques contacts avec des organisations locales, les jeunes qui grandissent dans des régions de langue minoritaire sont généralement déshérités que ce soit sur le plan social, culturel ou économique. Les régions auxquelles ils appartiennent ne correspondent pas à des Etats et les structures de l'Etat ne correspondent souvent pas aux besoins de ces jeunes dont la langue n'est peut-être même pas enseignée dans leurs écoles. Les programmes européens leur offrent la possibilité de rencontrer et d'être en contact avec des jeunes d'autres Etats membres mais la majorité des organes qui gèrent ces programmes sont situés dans des capitales d'Etat membre, loin des régions où les langues minoritaires sont parlées. D'autre part, l'information produite par ces agences centrales étant pour la plupart uniquement dans la langue officielle de l'Etat en question, les jeunes des régions périphériques où une langue moins répandue est parlée ne bénéficient pas de ces programmes autant qu'ils le pourraient. Depuis sa première conférence de la Jeunesse qui s'est déroulée en Bretagne en 1985, le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues tient les jeunes informés de ce qui se passe au niveau européen afin qu'ils puissent profiter du soutien qui existe à ce niveau et jouer leur rôle dans la formation de l'avenir de l'Europe.

Un séminaire sur *la Jeunesse et l'Economie* a été organisé par le Siège social du Bureau à Dublin et s'est déroulé à Rosmuc, dans le Connamara, du 18 au 21 septembre 1997. Vingt-cinq jeunes, âgés de 20 à 29 ans, y ont participé. Ils venaient de la communauté slovène en Italie, de Outer Hebrides, de la Frise, du Frioul, de la Frise septentrionale, de la Bretagne, du Pays basque, de la Catalogne, de la Galice, ainsi que de l'Irlande. Un des discours clés a été fait par Nia Bowen, de *Menter a Busnes*, l'agence qui promeut le développement économique dans le pays de Galles gallophone. Pádraig O Céidigh, le directeur de l'hebdomadaire en langue irlandaise Foinse, et Proinsias Ni Ghráinne, de Teilifís na Gaeilge, faisaient partie des autres intervenants. Le séminaire comprenait un atelier sur les médias, la technologie de l'information, les industries de la musique et de l'édition et le tourisme culturel.

Le festival coïncidait avec un *Festival du Connemara, Pléaraca*, et le soir, les participants ont eu l'occasion de prendre part à certains des événements culturels. Pour obtenir de plus amples informations, veuillez contacter le responsable de la jeunesse du Bureau, Caoimhe Ni Lochlainn, au siège social de Dublin.

Nations Unies

Le Bureau européen a connu un développement important: l'ONU (Conseil économique et social) a reconnu le Bureau en tant qu'ONG et lui a accordé un statut consultatif spécial auprès *du Conseil économique et social des nations unies*. Ceci signifie que le Bureau est en droit d'assister aux réunions appropriées de l'ONU, non seulement celles qui ont lieu à son siège à New York mais également dans sa section des Droits de l'Homme basée à Genève ainsi qu'à son centre de Vienne.

Les Sami-Le peuple indigène du Grand Nord. Auteurs: *Irja Seurujärvi, Steinar Pedersen, Vuokko Hirvonen*. 3 ECUs. 45 pages. ISBN 90-74851-19-8 (anglais), 90-74851-19-8 (français).

Publiée par le Centre d'Information de Bruxelles du Bureau européen, cette brochure, la cinquième dans la collection *Langues européennes*, détaille de la langue sami et de ceux qui la parlent. Le terme Sami, ou Sámpi, signifie le peuple mais fait aussi référence à la langue et aux régions dans lesquelles elle est parlée. Dans le passé, les étrangers appelaient les Sami des Lapons, un terme peu apprécié des Sami eux-mêmes en raison de ses connotations péjoratives. Le terme lui-même varie d'un Etat à l'autre et on estime le nombre des Sami à environ 100,000. Si l'on considère que les populations majoritaires dans les trois Etats scandinaves fait un exposé et la péninsule de Kola s'élèvent à quelque 19 millions en tout, on constate que les Sami constituent une toute petite minorité dans chacun des pays dans lesquels ils vivent. Cette brochure décrit cette communauté, sa langue et son histoire ainsi que sa situation actuelle. L'ouvrage s'achève sur une touche optimiste: les Sami croient qu'après les progrès réalisés au cours des dernières années leur position en tant que peuple indigène va être renforcée et que leur langue, leur culture et leurs traditions seront sauvegardées et transmises aux générations à venir.

Bas-allemand

Comité roman du Comité belge du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues asbl

Proposition pour un addendum relatif à l'article "Langues régionales et démocratie" paru dans Contact Bulletin 13.3 1996

Plusieurs auteurs ont réagi à l'article de Jean-Luc Fauconnier "Langues régionales et démocratie" paru dans *Contact Bulletin* 3, 1996. L'auteur tient à apporter quelques précisions concernant un passage de ce texte qui semble avoir été mal perçu par certains.

Il apparait que mes réflexions concernant des langues comme le wallon, le picard, l'asturien, l'aragonais, le piémontais, le sicilien ou encore le bas-saxon (la liste est loin d'être exhaustive) aient pu prêter à confusion en raison d'une phrase qui a été accidentellement tronquée dans l'article "Langues régionales et démocratie" paru dans *Contact Bulletin* 3, 1996. Il convenait de lire: "Mais le bas-saxon! Il est certes utilisé à la frange orientale du territoire néerlandais mais c'est surtout en Allemagne qu'il est parlé et là, [il est considéré par les autorités] comme simple dialecte."

J'ai toujours perçu le fait de classer un idiome dans la catégorie "dialecte" comme une attitude fort discutable, tant pour ce qui est de la démocratie linguistique -bien souvent les locuteurs ne sont pas pris en compte à ce sujet- que pour ce qui est des sciences linguistiques -le mot "dialecte" se caractérisant par une telle polysémie qu'il est malaisé de l'utiliser à bon escient-.

Je suis d'autant plus enclin à en bannir l'usage qu'il est malheureusement utilisé par certaines instances internationales dans une optique budgétaire. En d'autres termes, il suffit de considérer qu'un parler est un dialecte pour l'exclure de toutes les mesures de promotion et de protection prévues par lesdites instances pour les "langues moins répandues", en faisant fi, bien souvent, de l'opinion des locuteurs et même des linguistes.

Je regrette que certains lecteurs de *Contact Bulletin* m'aient attribué, en raison de cette coquille, des propos qui ne sont nullement les miens et je leur demanderai de bien vouloir m'en excuser.

Jean-Luc Fauconnier, rue de Namur 600 B.6200 Châtelet, Belgique

LES RECOMMANDATIONS DE LA HAYE RELATIVES AUX DROITS À L'ÉDUCATION DES MINORITÉS NATIONALES

La Fondation des Relations interethniques, une organisation non-gouvernementale créée en 1993 pour exécuter des activités spécialisées à l'appui du haut-commissariat pour les minorités nationales, a récemment publié des recommandations relatives aux droits à l'éducation des minorités nationales, accompagnées d'une note explicative. Ces recommandations ont été rédigées par la Fondation après consultation avec un groupe d'experts comprenant des juristes spécialisés dans le droit international ainsi que des linguistes et des pédagogues spécialisés dans les situations et les besoins des minorités nationales.

Bien que dans l'ensemble le ton des recommandations soit prudent, la plupart d'entre elles sont très positives. On y suggère que "*en appliquant les instruments internationaux susceptibles de profiter aux personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales, les États doivent uniformément accepter les principes fondamentaux d'égalité et de non-discrimination.*" [Article 2]. L'article 11 remarque que "*les premières années d'éducation sont d'une importance primordiale dans le développement d'un enfant. Les recherches effectuées dans le domaine de l'éducation suggèrent que la langue d'enseignement aux niveaux préscolaire et maternel devrait idéalement être la langue maternelle de l'enfant...*". L'article 12 ajoute: "*les recherches indiquent aussi qu'à l'école primaire, l'idéal serait que le programme soit enseigné par l'intermédiaire de la langue minoritaire. La langue minoritaire devrait être enseignée en tant que matière de façon régulière...*".

Ce ton positif se poursuit dans l'article 13 qui déclare que "*dans les écoles secondaires, une partie considérable du programme devrait être enseignée par l'intermédiaire de la langue minoritaire. La langue minoritaire devrait être enseignée en tant que matière de façon régulière...*". On trouve des recommandations similaires en ce qui concerne les écoles professionnelles dans l'article 16, et l'article 17 affirme que "*les personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales devraient avoir accès à une éducation tertiaire dans leur propre langue lorsqu'elles ont démontré qu'elles en avaient besoin et lorsque leur importance numérique le justifie...*".

Dans le cadre des décisions qu'elle a prises en juillet 1992 à Helsinki, l'OSCE a établi que la position de Haut-Commissaire pour les Minorités nationales était "*un instrument pour prévenir les conflits le plus tôt possible*".

Pour obtenir une copie des recommandations, s'adresser à : Foundation of Inter-Ethnic Relations, Prinsessegracht 22, 2514 AP The Hague, Pays-Bas. [Tél: + 31 70 3636033 / Télécopie: + 31 70 3465213 / Courrier électronique: FIER@EURONET.NL]

D.O Riagain

omrop fryslân

Nouveau départ pour la chaîne de télévision frisonne, Omrop Fryslân

A l'issue d'un long débat sur l'avenir de la télévision frisonne, celle-ci a pris un nouveau départ au mois de juin dernier avec la diffusion d'émissions quotidiennes en frison. Grâce à un vaste soutien politique en Frise et au sein du Parlement néerlandais à La Haye, *Omrop TV* jouit désormais d'un financement garanti s'élevant à 5,2 millions de florins. Ceci marque la fin d'une période d'essai de trois ans au cours de laquelle *Omrop Fryslân* a diffusé des émissions quotidiennes avec un budget limité et temporaire.

La télévision frisonne a toutefois une histoire plus ancienne que cela. Depuis les années 1980, Omrop Fryslân TV fournit un service hebdomadaire d'une demi-heure en frison sur la première chaîne nationale. Ce service s'adresse aux Frisons dans l'ensemble des Pays-Bas. Étant donné qu'il était alors impossible de développer le réseau, Omrop TV a lancé sa propre chaîne en février 1994 pour diffuser des informations, des émissions sportives, des émissions pour enfants, des clips vidéo d'artistes frisons et des magazines d'actualités. Ce qui veut dire que depuis lors, Omrop Fryslân a deux sortes de programmes: des documentaires hebdomadaires sur le réseau national qui sont financés par celui-ci et sa propre chaîne de télévision quotidienne à petit budget.

L'indice d'écoute du programme quotidien a graduellement augmenté au cours des trois dernières années. A la fin de 1996, le programme d'informations en frison, *Hjoed* (Aujourd'hui), a atteint le statut de leader du marché, ce qui signifie qu'à 19 heures Omrop Fryslân est la chaîne qui attire le plus de téléspectateurs dans l'ensemble de la Frise, plus encore que les chaînes commerciales qui diffusent des feuilletons populaires à la même heure. Au moment où Omrop Fryslân réalisait cet exploit, la chaîne était à court d'argent et, pendant quelques mois, son avenir est demeuré incertain. Ce sont des politiciens de la Frise et de La Haye, bien conscients de la popularité et de l'utilité de la télévision frisonne, qui lui sont venus en aide. Sous la responsabilité du Secrétaire d'État, Aad Nuis, un accord a été rédigé qui garantit le cofinancement de la télévision frisonne d'une part par les habitants de la Frise, qui paient 10 florins par an pour ce service, et d'autre part par l'État néerlandais qui verse le double de la somme fournie par les habitants. De surcroît, des indemnités sont touchées en compensation des pertes subies au cours de la période d'essai et pour développer l'émetteur frison à Jirnsum. Par ailleurs, des politiciens frisons envisagent de fournir des fonds pour financer des projets audiovisuels qui développeraient des programmes d'art dramatique entre autres.

L'accord passé entre l'État et les autorités provinciales posent des bases solides pour le développement de la télévision frisonne au cours des prochaines années. Il existe cependant des limitations. Le budget annuel de la télévision frisonne, qui s'élève à 5,2 millions de florins, est petit comparé par exemple au budget de la télévision en gaélique d'Écosse. Ceci s'explique par le fait que la télévision quotidienne en frison est considérée " télévision régionale " et ne peut donc être qu'un service d'informations et d'actualités. Par conséquent, le budget annuel ne prévoit pas le financement d'émissions dramatiques, de programmes pour enfants, de spectacles de variétés populaires et autres productions coûteuses. Il est donc probable qu'il faudra un certain nombre d'années pour supprimer ces restrictions et pour que la chaîne puisse devenir active dans ces domaines aussi.

En attendant, Omrop Fryslân TV investit dans les programmes d'actualités. A partir de cet automne, la chaîne diffusera également le samedi. Ainsi, avec les émissions hebdomadaires du dimanche sur le réseau national, la télévision en langue frisonne sera disponible sept jours sur sept. Omrop Fryslân diffuse une heure par jour et ces émissions sont rediffusées au moins deux fois, ce qui offre un plus grand choix d'horaires aux téléspectateurs. Elle réalise également des émissions sportives et une nouvelle émission culturelle sera diffusée à partir de cet automne. Le service frison de la chaîne nationale diffuse actuellement une série de documentaires sur la pelote ou ' handball ' en Irlande, en Italie, en Valence, au Pays basque et, bien sûr, en Frise. Ces émissions ont été réalisées avec le concours d'autres chaînes de télévision fournissant des services en langue minoritaire telles que Euskal Telebista (Pays basque), RAI (Italie) et Radio Teilifís Éireann (Irlande).

Onno P. Falkena, Omrop Fryslan, Boite postale 642, NL-8901 BK Ljouwert/Leeuwarden.

Soutien financier de l'UE pour les langues et/ou les cultures minoritaires

La Commission européenne a récemment lancé un nouveau programme d'action visant à promouvoir et à sauvegarder les langues et cultures régionales ou minoritaires de l'Union. L'appel de propositions a été publié le 13 juin 1997 dans le Journal Officiel des Communautés européennes (référence 97/C178/04). Une allocation de 3,675 millions d'Écus a été attribuée cette année à cette action qui est financée dans le cadre de la ligne budgétaire B3-1006 du budget de l'Union européenne.

Les communautés concernées sont les minorités linguistiques de l'UE et de l'EEE (Espace Économique Européen) qui parlent une langue autochtone différente de celle qui est parlée par la majorité de la population de l'État membre dans lequel elles vivent. Le programme n'inclut ni les dialectes ni les langues des immigrants ni les langues créées artificiellement. On notera que cette action ne donnera pas la priorité aux langues officielles des États membres, y compris deux langues moins répandues, l'irlandais et le luxembourgeois, car celles-ci sont déjà soutenues par le programme LINGUA de l'UE.

L'Union européenne veut continuer à encourager le développement des compétences linguistiques, de la description linguistique, de la normalisation et de l'information. A ces champs d'activité traditionnels, le nouveau programme ajoute la promotion économique et sociale des langues. Ceci comprend l'usage des langues dans les nouvelles technologies, leur présence dans l'environnement visuel (signalisation routière, panneaux d'affichage, etc.), dans les infrastructures touristiques ou sur les produits destinés à la consommation locale ou à l'exportation.

Les projets ne sont que partiellement financés, à hauteur de 50% maximum. Les candidats doivent réunir l'autre partie des fonds grâce à leurs propres contributions ou d'autres sources. L'année dernière, une somme totale de 4 millions d'Écus a servi à financer 170 projets.

La date limite de candidatures est le 1/11/1997 pour les projets commençant à partir du 1/4/1998, et le 1/4/1998 pour les projets commençant à partir du 15/9/1998. De plus amples informations ainsi qu'un guide explicatif sont disponibles auprès de l'agence bruxelloise du Bureau européen (voir adresse en dernière page).

Pour obtenir des dossiers de candidature, veuillez contacter: Commission européenne - DGXXII, A l'attention de Mme Olga Profili, Langues régionales ou minoritaires, 200 rue de la Loi, B-7 6/34, B-1049 Bruxelles; ou sur Internet: langmin@dg22.cec.be

Exposition met en évidence le rôle important du gaélique dans les affaires

La langue gaélique peut jouer un rôle important dans le futur développement de l'activité industrielle et commerciale en Écosse. Ceci est un des principaux messages qui ressort d'une exposition inaugurée cette année au Parlement européen, à Strasbourg. L'exposition et le rapport qui l'accompagne, "Le Bilinguisme dans les Affaires", sont le résultat d'un projet mené par un groupe de travail paneuropéen constitué en vue de faire des recherches sur l'usage des langues moins répandues d'Europe dans le monde des affaires. L'agence de développement gaélique, Comunn na Gàidhlig, assure la direction du groupe.

Les entreprises tiennent compte du soutien croissant dont bénéficient les langues moins répandues. De plus en plus de compagnies offrent dorénavant des services bilingues et ont constaté qu'une telle politique stimule la clientèle, rehausse l'image de marque et peut donner un avantage concurrentiel et une part de marché accrue. L'exposition et le rapport montrent que l'usage des langues moins répandues est répandu dans tout le domaine des communications extérieures, qu'il s'agisse des brochures, des campagnes publicitaires, du papier à lettres ou des couleurs d'une entreprise. En ce qui concerne les communications internes, il a été prouvé que le bilinguisme peut être un facteur essentiel pour favoriser un travail d'équipe efficace. Lors d'un discours suivant l'inauguration, M. Allan Campbell, directeur de Comunn na Gàidhlig, s'est exprimé ainsi:

"Nous savons que l'augmentation du soutien apporté au gaélique et aux autres langues minoritaires s'est accompagnée d'une augmentation de leur usage dans le monde des affaires. Ce projet a rassemblé l'expérience de neuf communautés linguistiques et a mis en évidence non seulement l'ampleur du bilinguisme dans les affaires mais aussi les réels avantages qu'il peut engendrer. Nombreuses sont les entreprises en Écosse qui ont été assez clairvoyantes pour réaliser qu'en offrant leurs services en gaélique, elles se différenciaient des autres. Maintenant, notre objectif est de montrer à l'ensemble du monde des affaires écossais les possibilités qu'offre le gaélique en tant qu'élément d'une stratégie commerciale".

Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à Allan Campbell, Chief Executive, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Tél : + 44 1463 234.138; ou David McCrossan, Director of Economic Development, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Tél : + 44 141 339.2022.

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L'objectif du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues est de sauvegarder et de promouvoir les langues autochtones moins répandues de l'Union européenne ainsi que leurs cultures. C'est un organisme indépendant enregistré en Irlande en société à responsabilité limitée sans capital actions et en AI en Belgique. Il travaille en collaboration étroite avec la Commission européenne et le Parlement européen, le Conseil de l'Europe, les NU, l'UNESCO et des institutions des Etats membres, à la poursuite de son but. Le Bureau est alimenté par des subventions provenant de la Commission européenne, du Gouvernement irlandais, du Gouvernement national de Luxembourg, du Gouvernement provincial de la Frise et de la Communauté germanophone en Belgique. Des locaux sont gracieusement mis à la disposition du Centre d'information de Bruxelles par la Communauté francophone en Belgique

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contact bulletin

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Signature by Member States of the European Charter for Minority or Regional Languages

Austria
Croatia
Cyprus
Denmark
Finland
Germany
Hungary
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Romania
Slovenia
Spain
Switzerland
FYR of Macedonia
Ukraine

Ratification by Member States of the European Charter for Minority or Regional Languages

Croatia
Finland
Hungary
Liechtenstein
Netherlands
Norway
Switzerland

Signing the Charter, or any such convention, implies agreement with the principles contained therein and should lead to its ultimate ratification.

For further details:
www.coe.fr/eng/legaltxt/148e.htm
www.coe.fr/fr/txtjur/148fr.htm

FL 026310

International Conference marks the entry into force of the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

"A mere absence of discrimination is not enough to protect languages that are in a weak position. The main purpose is to devise positive measures to promote regional or minority languages." Mr Philip Blair of the Council of Europe said at the opening of the International Conference in Strasbourg at the end of March to mark the entry into force of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Twenty-one European governments, a delegation from the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, as well as other experts from minority language associations participated at this historic event.

Mr Philip Blair and Mr Ferdinando Albanese of the Council of Europe at the Conference

The Charter, on ratification in a state, is legally binding and gives significant protection to minority languages in the areas of education, judicial authorities, justice, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities, economic and social life. Its practical implementation in these fields was the main focus of the conference during which representatives of the Bureau intervened extensively. It augured well that during the proceedings a number of official delegations stated the intention of their governments to ratify the Charter. These include Slovenia, Spain and Italy over the next couple of years and in the case of Germany before the Autumn of this year.

Mr Ferdinando Albanese, Director of Environment and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe, who chaired the conference and has been the driving force behind the drafting of the Charter since 1992, provided *Contact Bulletin* with an exclusive analysis of the Convention.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages came into force on 1 March 1998 in respect of the seven States which have ratified it.
It is a moment of great satisfaction for all those who have worked for this result, including the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages which has greatly contributed to the negotiations and to the action designed to convince States to ratify the Convention.

For the first time in Public International Law a specific International Convention is devoted to the protection and promotion of the regional or minority languages in Europe. It is true that the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities which entered into force on 1 February 1998 last – that is a month before the European Charter – also deals with the languages of minorities but the objectives and emphasis of the two instruments are different.

For the European Charter, the promotion and protection of the regional or minority languages is the specific purpose of the text whereas in its Articles 10, 11, 12 and 14 the Framework Convention aims at protecting the persons belonging to a national minority and the measures concerning the languages are a means

of protecting the minority. The language in itself is not a specific object for protection.
Moreover, the reference to the concept of minority leaves open the question whether the regional languages are to be considered as languages spoken by a minority and therefore covered by the Framework Convention. The National Law of Contracting Parties will decide this point since the definition of "minority" will be given by each Party.

The entering into force of the European Charter creates an international guarantee for the regional or minority languages spoken by the Contracting Parties. Although it does not "create" individual or collective rights it seems to me that, in a political sense, for the first time four rights are recognised for the speakers of the regional or minority languages: a) the right to exist b) the right to keep their personal identity or culture, c) the right to communicate to others their own cultural wealth and d) the right to dignity.

Thus the concrete measures proposed in the Charter will greatly contribute, I hope, to the preservation of an important aspect of Europe's cultural heritage, the linguistic diversity and to the construction of a multicultural Europe both at European level and inside the Member States of the Council of Europe.

In this sense, protection and development of regional or minority languages should not be seen as a hindrance to the learning of the official language of the State. In a world where there is a tendency to consider that people should "speak usefully", in other words should have an interest to speak the most widely used language, the Charter clearly claims the opposite principle: that is, that regional or minority languages are not only the natural expression of a population locally, but also a cultural bonus nationally and at European level.

The Committee of Ministers in April appointed the members of the Committee of Experts provided by Article 17 of the European Charter (one for each Contracting State). The role of such a Committee is going to be very important since it is up to them to supervise the compliance of the national measure with the provisions accepted by the Contracting Parties and to make recommendations, possibly, for the improvement of the situation of regional or minority languages.
Let's hope that the States will propose candidates of the "highest integrity" and that the appointed members, in carrying out their task, will act independently and not be subject to instructions from their governments.

Contact Bulletin asked commentators in a number of countries to respond to the coming into force of the convention:

Finland: The ratification of the Charter and the resulting internal legislation

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages entered into force on 1 March 98 and became binding on Finland as from the same date. Before 1 March 1999 the Finnish Government will have to provide its first report on the measures taken with respect to its chosen undertakings under Part III and its policy pursued in accordance with the principles in Part II.

The Charter was incorporated into the Finnish legal system by means of a Government Decree. In its instrument of ratification the Finnish Government declared that it will apply 65 provisions of Part III to the Swedish language as a less widely used official language and 59 provisions to the Sami language. With respect to Article 8 on education and Article 12 on cultural activities and facilities, from which at least 3 undertakings are to be selected, the Finnish Government chose 10 from each article for each of the two languages.

With respect to non-territorial languages the Declaration stated that the Finnish Government will apply the principles listed in Part II to the Romany language (Kalé) and to the other non-territorial languages in Finland. The wording for the Declaration is inspired by Section 14 (3) of the Constitution Act of Finland. Finland thus avoided an exclusive listing in favour of an open-ended one, making it possible to invoke the principles of Part II in favour of other historic non-territorial minority languages in Finland such as Tatar-Turkic and Russian.

The Finnish Declaration indicates some kind of high watermark, it focuses on situations where the minority language enjoys the widest guarantees. Not in all cases are the needs of the users of a minority language met to such an extent. Thus e.g. pre-school education in Sámi is not provided in all municipalities of the so-called Sámi Homeland. The Declaration ignores the fact that three Sámi languages exist in Finland, North Sámi, Skolt Sámi and Inari Sámi. The Declaration basically lists the undertakings with respect to North Sámi, which is the dominant Sámi language in Finland. The Declaration denotes mainly the guarantees stipulated in Finnish legislation, but does not always give a reliable picture of their actual implementation.

Frank Horn, the Northern Institute for Environment and Minority Law, University of Lapland

Sweden: A transition state which is considering the signature and ratification of the Charter

The future of new minority policies in Sweden currently lies in the hands of hundreds of state, regional and local authorities, NGOs and minority organisations in Sweden who have been asked by the Swedish government to present their views on the recent proposals put forward by a government committee.

The authorities, NGOs and organisations have until July 17 to answer in writing and to present their own ideas concerning a future minority policy in Sweden.
Their response will hopefully lead to a government proposal for a parliamentary ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages later this year or at the beginning of 1999. The same procedure is applicable to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Sweden has so far lacked an official policy on minority issues and it is hoped that this situation will come to an end. The committee's report recommends that three languages be officially recognised as minority languages in Sweden: Finnish, Sami and Roma.

The committee also proposes that five nationalities - the Sweden-Finns, the Sami, the Tornedalians, Roma and the Jewish community will formally become acknowledged as official national minorities. The committee even suggested that a ratification might be strengthened by a future change in the Swedish Constitution.

After reviewing the recommendations submitted by all organisations the government will present its proposals to the Parliament which, if the Government so chooses, will ratify the two European conventions some time next year.

Heikki A. Kirjavainen of the Swedish Member State Committee of the European Bureau

France: Ongoing lobbying for the signature and ratification of the Charter

For the past five years the French Committee of the Bureau has lobbied extensively along with other concerned associations for the French government to sign and ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The strategy consisted in contacting members of parliament, senators, and ministers, and organising demonstrations on the streets. Motions for the signature and ratification of the Charter have also been put forward and passed in hundreds of regional and local authorities.

The most recent demonstrations occurred on 4 April last in Alsace, Brittany and the Basque Country where a total of 10,000 people mobilised. Around 5000 persons took to the streets of Bayonne, 4500 in Rennes and 300 in Strasbourg. They called for legal status for regional or minority languages, the modifications of Article 2 of the French Constitution and the ratification by France of the European Charter. The demonstrations, which received very good media coverage, were considered a success. Further events which will include all French minorities will be organised in Paris in the coming months.

After years of lobbying, the French Parliament last March established an intergroup for "regional languages and cultures". 68 MPs out of a total of 600 of the French Parliament are part of the intergroup. All political parties are represented in the intergroup.

A Republican Committee has been established comprising interested minority associations whose main objective will be to lobby to change Article 2 of the French Constitution (stating that the language of the Republic is French) which is currently used to oppose any legal improvement in favour of regional or minority languages in France. At a meeting of the French committee on 11 May 1998 last it was decided to support the committee's objectives.

Another development has been that the French government asked the socialist MP, Nicole Péry from the Basque Country, to compile a report on the situation of the regional languages and the policy that should be adopted in their regard. Mrs. Péry gave a pre-report in February last recommending France to sign and ratify the European Charter and that there should be a specific law for regional languages in education. Mr Bernard Poignant, the Mayor of Kemper/ Quimper in Brittany, has since replaced her and it is expected that he will give his report and final conclusions before the end of June.

Anna Vari Chapalain, President of the French Member State Committee of the European Bureau

The Dutch experience

What can Member State Committees do to ratify the Charter?

Due to the relatively straightforward linguistic situation in the Netherlands, and due to the fine line between the provincial government of Friesland and central government, the ratification procedure in the Netherlands only lasted three years. It is a longer process for member states, with a variety of minority languages and complex political structures to ratify the Charter.

Outside of these internal aspects there is one general aspect, which during the debate in parliament was raised by the Dutch government and to which, in my opinion, should be given more attention: the contribution of the Charter to stability in Eastern Europe. From the European point of view, the Charter is an international instrument which enables comparison between the positions of minority languages, in particular cross-border languages. The Charter can help to make language policy a subject of discussion between neighbouring states. It is especially for this reason that Hungary has been the first country to ratify the Charter in relation to five languages: German, Croatian, Roma, Slovene and Slovak. In neighbouring countries to Hungary there are a number of Hungarian minorities.

In those countries in which governments are reluctant to ratify the Charter, the Member State Committee can draft a document and for each individual minority language represented by the committee, it can propose a well documented list of desirable options to be signed out of the 97 options in Chapter III of the Charter. A distinction could be made between options which could be easily signed because of the present language position and actual language policy on the one hand and, on the other, those options which within a period of, let us say, 10 years should be signed according to language planning targets and programmes. This draft document could be presented at a seminar or meeting with the minister responsible for linguistic diversity on the occasion of next year's European language day.

After ratification

Apart from drafting such a proposal, in several countries the MSC could apply to be officially recognised as the monitoring committee (ex art. 7.4) and be consulted for the nomination of the national expert which will be appointed by the Committee of Ministers (ex art. 15) of the Charter.

Alex Riemersma, President of the Dutch Member State Committee, Director of the Bureau

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Frank Steketee, Programme Counsellor of the minorities section of the Council of Europe explains about the Framework Convention.

On 10 November 1994 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Opened for signature on 1 February 1995 the Framework Convention has been signed so far by 36 Member States and one non-Member State (Armenia). Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Hungary, Cyprus, Moldova, San Marino, Estonia "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Germany, Denmark, Finland, Croatia, Italy, Liechtenstein, Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Malta, Slovenia and Austria have already ratified it. It entered into force on 1 February 1998 last.

Although not the first instrument to be developed within the Council of Europe relevant to the protection of national minorities, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities is certainly the most comprehensive document in this area. Indeed, the Framework Convention is the first ever legally binding multilateral instrument devoted to the protection of national minorities in general.

Contents of the Framework Convention

By its nature a Framework Convention is different from a "normal" Convention. Whilst a Framework Convention is a Convention in the sense that it is a legally binding instrument under international law, the addition of the word "Framework" indicates that the principles contained in the instrument are not directly applicable in the domestic legal orders of the Member States, but will have to be implemented through national legislation and appropriate governmental policies. The specific nature is clearly in evidence in Section II of the Framework Convention where it sets out programme - type provisions.

Apart from the *Preamble* the Framework Convention has 32 articles and is divided into five sections.
The ad hoc committee for the convention, CAHMIN, decided to adopt a pragmatic approach and not to include a definition of the notion of a "national identity" in the Framework Convention as, at this stage, it was impossible to arrive at a definition capable of mustering general support of all Council of Europe Member States.

Section I sets out some general principles including the principle that the protection of national minorities and of persons belonging to national minorities is part of the international protection of human rights. It also establishes that every person belonging to a national minority is free to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such, with no disadvantage arising from the choice.

Section II is the main operative part of the Framework Convention as it contains the provisions laying down more specific principles. These principles cover a wide range of issues, inter alia: non-discrimination; promotion of effective equality; promotion of the conditions regarding the preservation and development of the culture and preservation of religion, language and traditions; freedoms of assembly, association, expression, thought, conscience and religion; access to and use of media; linguistic freedoms; education; transfrontier contacts; international and transfrontier cooperation; participation in economic, cultural and social life; participation in public life and prohibition of forced assimilation.

A number of these principles are already covered by the European Convention on Human Rights. Their inclusion, besides adding to the comprehensive nature of the document, is particularly important because the Framework Convention will be open to signature by non-Member States at the invitation of the Committee of Ministers.

Section III contains some important provisions on the interpretation of the Framework Convention such as that it may not be construed as containing a right to engage in activities contrary to the territorial integrity and political independence of States and that nothing in the Framework Convention may be construed as limiting higher standards of protection of human rights ensured in other international instruments or under national legislation.

Section IV sets out the provisions on the implementation mechanism which is discussed below. The final provisions are in *Section V* of the Convention.

Monitoring of the Framework Convention

The rules which apply to the monitoring of the Framework Convention are to be found in Articles 24-26 of the Framework Convention and in "The rules on the monitoring arrangements under Articles 24-26 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities" (Resolution (97) 10) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The Framework Convention establishes a system of monitoring based on reports from the Contracting Parties. These reports will first be examined by an Advisory Committee of independent experts. The Advisory Committee is to prepare an opinion which it will send to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The Advisory Committee will be composed of a minimum of twelve and a maximum of 18 *ordinary members*. The candidates have to meet the qualifications and capacity of membership:
- to have recognised expertise in the field of protection of national minorities;
-shall serve in their individual capacity, shall be independent and impartial, and shall be available to serve the committee effectively.

The Framework Convention distinguishes two kinds of reports: periodic reports and ad hoc reports which can be requested from a Contracting Party by the Committee of Ministers whenever it so decides. The reports will have to contain "full information on the legislative and other measures taken to give effect to the principles set out in this Framework Convention." The State reports will be made public by the Council of Europe upon receipt from the Contracting Party.

The duty of the Advisory Committee is to examine the State reports and prepare an opinion on the measures taken by the Contracting Party. In order to do so, a number of working methods are put at its disposal such as seeking additional information from a Contracting Party, other sources, individuals and NGOs, holding meetings with govenrnments and others besides.

The Opinion of the Advisory Committee shall as a rule be made public together with the conclusions of the Committee of Ministers. Having received the Opinion of the Advisory Committee, the Committee of Ministers shall take the final decisions (called conclusions) concerning the adequacy of the measures taken by the Contracting Party. Where appropriate, it may also adopt recommendations to the Contracting Party.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee of Ministers shall be made public upon their adoption, together with any comments the Contracting Party may have submitted in respect of the Opinion delivered by the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee may be involved by the Committee of Ministers in the monitoring of the follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations.

For further details on the Framework Convention:
www.coe.fr/eng/legaltxt/ 157e.htm
www.coe.fr/txtjur/157fr.htm

The European Parliament 1998 Budget Vote:

More Money for Minority Languages and the Need for a Representative EBLUL

More money for linguistic minorities and a broadly representative EBLUL: the European Parliament made these two points in its vote on the European budget for the year 1998.

The amount of money allocated to regional or minority languages in 1997 was 3,675,000 ECU. The Budget Committee whose chairperson is Stanislaw Tillich, a Sorb from Germany, decided to raise it to 4 million ECU in 1998. The decision was adopted by the Plenary Assembly of the European Parliament in December and was a positive sign following the cut of the last year. The budget line for regional or minority languages, B3-1006, is managed by DGXXII of the European Commission. It helps to finance many minority language projects and to safeguard the European non-official autochthonous languages, as well as some important minority structures, such as the Mercator Centres and the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

It is the first time that EBLUL has been specifically mentioned in the European budget. The reference is an indication of the Parliament's interest and concern for the effective functioning of the Bureau and is of great political importance. It is clear recognition of the role played by EBLUL in the field of lesser used languages.

Nevertheless, the European Parliament has decided on a cut in the subvention for the Bureau. It placed in the reserve only 400,000 ECU for its operation in 1998. However, it does not exclude the possibility of the Bureau negotiating additional subventions for specific projects. It is nevertheless a clear reduction and the Bureau will have to undergo profound changes and make an extraordinary effort in order to sustain the same level of coordination and services to linguistic communities as they have in the past. Moreover, the amount has been linked to a precise condition: "The Bureau must demonstrate broad representation on its Council."

The amount allocated to the Bureau and the wording of the condition that goes with it caused quite a stir in the months preceding the final vote of the European Parliament on the 1998 budget. There was much discussion on what kind of representativity the Bureau should and could demonstrate. It is obviously impossible for all linguistic communities to directly elect their representatives to the Council of EBLUL and thus the question of how the Bureau can best act for them and the languages they speak remains open.

Several draft amendments, tabled by the Welsh MEP Eluned Morgan in the Culture Committee, tried to set precise rules for the representativity of EBLUL. They specified, for example, that official language bodies where they existed should be given the opportunity to represent their communities on the EBLUL Council, if they so wished, and that one representative from each language community rather than two from each Member State Committee should sit on that Council. Although these amendments were not eventually adopted by the European Parliament, they still represent a stimulating basis for discussion and will certainly be considered by the EBLUL Council members in their continuing democratic debate on the structure and functioning of the Bureau.

The Bozen/ Bolzano Assembly of the EBLUL Council in February tried to take the first important steps in the direction indicated by the European Parliament. But the question of representativity and effectiveness that has been raised cannot have a single once-and-for-all solution. To be more efficient and more representative is bound to be an ongoing process, to which all linguistic communities are asked to bring their own specific contribution.

Ivana Suhadolc of the Italian Member State Committee

The Challenge of the **Millennium**

This issue of EBLUL's newsletter is the first opportunity that I have as the newly elected President of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages to address our readers throughout Europe. It is an important occasion which I would not want to miss, that said I shall be brief. When I accepted the nomination for President, I was fully aware that our organisation was facing an important period of change. This will surprise none of those who have known for some time that change was necessary. Nor is the need to change a tragedy. We are confident that EBLUL has been doing its job well but now needs to operate in a new context.

There is only one reason why changes are necessary: Europe is rapidly changing and in a few years all Europeans will live in a different Europe.

The nation-state is a thing of the past. Some ten years ago state nationalists in most of the European countries were resisting diversity, and their activities were based on retaining the borders of the nation, the currency, the army, the language and the flag. Now that the iron curtain no longer exists and most of the internal borders have disappeared with the Schengen treaty, the euro is going to replace the national currency in eleven states. most of the armies are co-operating in peace-keeping missions, and there is only one centre of coordination. The blue flag with its twelve yellow stars is becoming our common flag. In a few years more states will join the European family.

These are the facts. This is the challenge which faces everybody and this is the reason why the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages should change. People say it should survive. But hearsay is not enough for the challenge we face in the following years. We are firmly convinced that we have to develop our activities if we want to achieve two main objectives:

the first is the establishment of a common European policy for the maintenance and the promotion of our languages. We know that there is a very strong awareness of this need in the European Parliament, as well as in the Committee of the Regions. Moreover, the European Commission is considering this question as a matter of urgency.

For the past fifteen years, we have tried to convince the majority of the governments of the EU Member States of this necessity and are still doing so. It will be easier now, because they are realising that, in the general context of European integration, they are rowing in the wrong direction.

The second objective is to extend this common European policy to the states which will in the future enter the European Union. In some of these states minority issues have only been considered as elements of tension and conflict. International documents regarding these issues include the European Commission's document Agenda 2000 on the EU Applicant Member States which considers this political aspect as the most important and even the most relevant one. There might be some truth in this but we have to fight to convince people that minority languages in Central and Eastern European States should not be viewed as merely sources of tension and conflict, but that they are part of our common European cultural heritage. We have no power to achieve these two objectives ourselves. As we have done in the past we have to unite with people and organisations who are convinced that this is the right way forward. We have to develop our activities in all these directions and be ready to exercise influence at any moment. This is the challenge we have to face as the Millennium approaches.

Bojan Brezigar,
President of the European Bureau

New direction for the Bureau:

The Annual Assembly of the European Bureau in Bozen/ Bolzano

The new President of the Bureau, Bojan Brezigar, and a new Board were elected at the Annual Assembly of the European Bureau in Bozen/ Bolzano, February last. Since its early days, the newly elected president, an Italian-Slovene has been an active member of the Bureau and is editor of the Slovene language paper *Primorski Dnevnik*. The new Board of Directors for the next three years are Vice-Presidents Christian Brandt, a Finland-Swede, and Peadar O Flatharta from Ireland; other directors include Jean-Luc Fauconnier of the Walloon community in Belgium, Aureli Argemi from Catalonia and Alex Riemersma from Friesland.

At the Assembly, a new direction for the Bureau was called for. An outline policy document concerning the restructuring and future strategy of the organisation was voted on and approved by the Council of the Bureau. The most important provision in this document is the call for greater representativity and activity among the Member State Committees which "form the basis of EBLUL". The new Board intends to closely monitor the MSCs' progress and an up to date report of the committees' developments will be high on the agenda of the next Council meeting, September next. The President and new Board are seriously addressing the European Commission's and Parliament's call for greater representativity which was the subject of much debate last year. They are therefore prioritising it in their new term of office.

Other provisions in the Bozen document include the expansion of the Bureau by the year 2000 into the applicant states of the EU. It is also recommended that the NGO status of Bureau should be further developed. Such status has already been attained from the Council of Europe and UNESCO. Other recommendations include concrete projects such as a press agency for the minorities and a European Language Day to be celebrated each year. The first steps were taken at the Assembly for a new and restructured Bureau which the newly-elected Board of directors intend to steer into the year 2000.

Declarations from Board members

Christian Brandt is a member of the Swedish minority in Finland. He lives in Helsinki and is Secretary General of the Swedish Assembly of Finland. Mr. Brandt was elected to the Board of Directors in December 1995 and since that time has been committed to working for the transformation of EBLUL into a modern representative organisation for minority languages in the EU. This includes effective efforts to achieve visibility for our languages in all EU media. He is Vice-President on the Board with responsibility for personnel and for the MSCs in Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

Peadar O Flatharta is President of the Irish Member State Committee of EBLUL and Director of Comhdhail Naisiunta na Gaeilge a congress of national language and cultural organisations in Ireland. He has a professional and academic interest in organisation behaviour and the social non-profit sector in particular. The role of EBLUL must be strengthened, he believes, to allow the linguistic communities to survive and prosper and to allow participation and representation in the decision-making processes especially now as we move towards a more federal Europe.

Alex Riemersma is from Friesland in the Netherlands. He is Co-Director of Berie foar it Frysk, the Frisian Language Board, and the advisory council for the Provincial Government of Friesland for language policy and planning. As a new director, he has been appointed rapporteur for finance and rapporteur for the Member State Committees of Germany and Austria as well as for the Netherlands' MSC. Mr Riemersma wants to contribute to EBLUL in particular in two respects, by strengthening the functioning of the MSCs in relation to both offices of EBLUL through their active participation in EBLUL's projects. Also by strengthening the direct partnership between other organisations and EBLUL through their active participation in projects which are funded from European sources besides the budget line for regional or minority languages.

Aureli Argemi is from Catalonia and is Director of CIEMEN, a Catalan NGO aiming at defending and promoting collective rights, including linguistic rights. He is also President of the Spanish Member State Committee. He has responsibility for France and Spain on the Board of Directors. Mr. Argemi has been with the Bureau since 1986 and in that time he would like to think that the European Bureau has succeeded in raising awareness in Europe about all its languages which has contributed to a greater comprehension about Europe's identity. There is now a necessity for the organisation to go further and to become more efficient in its services for it to justify its existence. It must become more representative of society and known within it, more independent of public institutions to collaborate with them more effectively, and more definite in its aims. It is at this turning point that I look forward to working within the Bureau.

Jean-Luc Fauconnier is Walloon and is employed by the Ministere de la Communauté française de Belgique (the Ministry for the French community in Belgium). He chairs the Conseil des Langues Regionales Endogenes of the aforementioned community. He is also editor of the periodical *Mic Romania* which is devoted to contemporary literature in the Romance regional languages. On the Board of Directors he is responsible for the Brussels Information Centre of the European Bureau and the coordination of the member state committees of Belgium and Luxembourg. He is convinced of a linguistic democracy and considers that all languages no matter what their status should be protected and promoted; it is a question of respect for their speakers and a cultural pluralism. He wishes therefore that the place of EBLUL in this respect should continue to be a model of openness and tolerance.

European Conference on Minority Daily Press

Plans for what may develop into a fully fledged news agency were laid at a conference which brought the editors of thirty-one minority language daily newspapers together in Trst/ Trieste in April. This historic occasion reflects on the one hand political and social development in Europe which make minorities more conscious of each others' existence and of their need to raise their profile vis-a-vis the European institutions and the majority populations, and on the other the new and cheap availability of electronic communications which make possible networking of a kind that could earlier only be dreamt of.

Twenty-four of the editors came from within the European Union, others from minorities in Switzerland, Slovakia, Estonia and Croatia and there were representatives of two Kosovo Albanian newspapers-in-exile. The two largest groups were the Catalans and Finland-Swedes. The latter are inveterate newspaper readers- for example in the Aland Islands a population of 20,000 manages to support two daily papers.

The European Bureau has plans for a pilot scheme using professional journalists in a few language communities to feed material relating to linguistic minorities to a Brussels office and receive material in return, thus establishing the nucleus of a news agency on language questions. Journalists themselves are of course not just interested in language questions, and they will, through the Mercator Media Project's database, establish and be able to access a list of contacts on newspapers and magazines in other European regions who can be approached for articles on all kinds of subjects. The conference was organised by *Primorski Dnevnik*, the Slovene daily paper in Trst/Trieste together with the Slovene Research Institute and the Mercator Media Project in the University of Wales. The conference was supported by DGXXII of the European Commission and a number of local sponsors.

Ned Thomas, President of the UK Member State Committee

The Northern Ireland Agreement

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages welcomes the inclusion in the Northern Ireland Multi-Party Agreement of a number of positive proposals on language and culture. In particular, we welcome the clear recognition of the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland. Language and culture are central to any people's sense of identity, and respect for different identities would appear to us to be imperative in creating a new climate for peace and harmony. We also welcome the clear indication that the UK is actively considering signing the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Bureau, Graz, 25 April 1998

News from the **Member State Committees** of the Bureau

Netherlands

Friesland

Simmerbarren 500 **– Youth seminar on work and employment in Friesland**
The Frisan youth organisation, Frysk Ynternasjonaal Kontakt (FYK), is celebrating 500 years of Friesland's autonomy by organising a seminar on youth and employment. Young Frisians are very aware that high unemployment is a common factor among most young people in minority communities. They have therefore opened the seminar to international delegates in an effort to exchange views and brainstorm on the issue. The seminar will run from Saturday 25 July to 1 August 1998.For further information, please contact:Simmerbarren 500 , Postbus 536, 8901 BH Ljouwert, The Netherlands. Tel: +31.58. 2152562 F: 2165474

Belgium

The Walloon Community

The 500th edition of the Walloon language review *èl bourdon*

The 500th edition of *el bourdon*, a Walloon monthly review is dedicated to its founder Félicien Barry (1899-1985). It includes a biography and analysis of his literary style and selection of texts. For further information: Danièle Trempont, rue de Landelies, 42, B-6110 Montigny-le-Tilleul

Reinstatement of the Conseil des Langues Régionales Endogènes until year 2000

The Conseil des Langues Régionales Endogènes has been reinstated for a second phase for the years 1997-2000 by the Ministers Charles Picqué and Jean Claude Cauwenberghe. The regional languages of the Walloon community in Belgium include Champenois, Francique, Lorrain, Picard and Walloon which are officially recognised by decree. The policy of their promotion was entrusted to the Conseil des Langues Regionales Endogènes, a consultative official organisation comprising 24 specialists which is presided over by Jean Luc Fauconnier, a member of the EBLUL Board. Their new tasks in their second phase include among others the development of a report on the European Charter, a report on these languages in media and education, and list of translated names of municipalities in these languages.

Italy

Conference on the linguistic minorities of Southern Italy in Termoli

A conference was organised by Confemili, the Italian MSC, on the linguistic minorities of Southern Italy in Termoli, February last. Albanian and Croatian are spoken in seven municipalities in the surrounding region. One of the major results of the conference was that the participants agreed on two final documents regarding the framework law to be approved by the Parliament in Rome and several items regarding the minorities in Molise.

Austria

The 8th congress for Ethnic Minorities in Europe Media was the theme of the 8th congress for Ethnic Minorities in Europe which was organised in Carinthia in collaboration with the European Ethnic Broadcasting Assocation (EEBA) November last. More than a 100 participants from 16 states attended the congress which was opened by the President of the Federal State of Carinthia, Christoph Zernatto, and by the Secretary of State for Culture Peter Wittmann.

France

Northern Catalonia

Regional Elections
The Catalan political parties, Unitat Catalana and Partit per Catalunya, decided to join forces and combine a united list of candidates under the banner "Catalan Energies" for the purpose of the regional elections last March. In this way they thought they might have a better chance of really influencing decisions at regional level concerning Catalan culture.

United Kingdom

Scotland

Iurosgoil 99, the festival for children of lesser used language schools, will be held in April next year on the Western Isles of Lewis and Harris in Scotland. According to the organiser, Kristine Kennedy of Comunn na Gàidhlig, they have a full contingent of applications, in fact more than they had planned for. So far they have 14 school groups from communities ranging from as a far a field as the Sámi in the North to the Occitans in the South.

News in brief

President of the Intergroup for Minority Languages, Joan Vallve. The European Parliament's Intergroup for Minority Languages was established in 1983 and as its main aim to monitor the implementation of EP Resolutions of lesser used languages and to promote them on an ongoing basis especially in regard to budget provisions. Mr Joan Vallve, the Catalan MEP pertaining to the Group of the European Liberal Democratic and Reformist Party has been President of the European Parliament's Intergroup for Minority Languages since last September.

Blueprint to boost numbers of students from minority groups

Parliamentarians in January provided governments with guidelines in boosting the number of students from minority groups in higher education. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe urged all 47 governments which have signed the Council's European Cultural Convention to follow a series of key principles when reviewing education policies. Among these principles advocated by Tytti Isohookana-Asunmaa from Finland were : opportunities for everyone to be able to study their own language and culture at university level; public education for linguistic minorities; opportunities for these students to sit exams for higher education and teacher training in minority languages.

The Law on the **Sardinian Language** and Culture

A new regional law for the promotion of the Sardinian language and culture came into effect on 1 January 1998. The Sardinian Regional Council had attempted before to pass a law for the protection of the island's regional language, but the draft had been rejected twice in a row by the Council of State in Rome. The objection of the Italian central administrative court was that the protection of a language was not within the competence of the regional legislative body and that school curricula could not be decided upon at regional level. The Sardinian Regional Council has shown great persistence in reformulating this law so that the richness of the local language and culture have finally been recognised. The new law approved on 11 September 1997, acknowledges "the cultural identity of the Sardinian people" and gives equal status to Sardinian as compared to Italian. It explicitly refers to both the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, although only the Framework Convention has so far come into effect in Italy. This law does not propose specific measures, but establishes a series of valuable tools for the promotion of the Sardinian culture and language, such as the Regional Observatory and a library and museum network. It also provides for a general inventory of the Sardinian cultural and linguistic heritage (which is especially important as Sardinian still does not have a "koine" or common standard and is divided between several dialects). Most significantly, the law will provide finance for a series of possible programmes and initiatives, such as courses of Sardinian in schools and universities or cultural projects in the regional media. It states, moreover, that the Sardinian language can freely be used in public administration if and where the local government wishes to incorporate its use in their statutes. It also provides for the use of the original Sardinian place names.

"The right to speak" and "a cultural revolution": these were the headlines in one of the leading Italian magazines concerning the new law which indicates a growing sensitivity to minority languages in Italian public opinion. It is high time to translate this sympathy into law. The next step wished for by the Italian lesser used languages is the approval of a framework law for the protection of linguistic minorities by the national parliament

Ivana Suhadolc

News from **European Bureau offices**

Dublin Head Office: DHO News

The Dublin Head Office of the European Bureau, in collaboration with the European Centre for Modern Languages, organised a workshop on the theme "East meets West-Unity in Diversity" in Graz 23-25 April last. The workshop was coordinated by Miquel Strubell, the Director of the Institute of Catalan Sociolinguistics, and co-facilitators included Guillaume Siemienski from the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations, Auke van der Goot from Mercator-Edacation and the Secretary General of the European Bureau, Dónall O Riagain. The aim of the workshop was to bring together people working for lesser used languages in the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe with their counterparts from the West. It focused on international legal instruments such as the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and other instruments which protect and promote minority languages. Delegates came from countries as far apart as Iceland, Cyprus, the Sámi region of Norway, Malta, Azerbaidian, Armenia, Georgia and the Baltic repubiics.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Study Visit Annual Report 1996/97 is now available and concerns the reports on the study visits which took place last year to the Swedish Community in Finland, the Finnish Community in Sweden, the German Community in Denmark, the Basque Country, Galicia, Scotland and Northern Catalonia in France.

The Secretary General of the European Bureau, Dónall Ó Riagáin, was nominated, last February, in a short list of five for the European of the Year Award in Ireland. Other contenders included the Irish MEP, Mary Banotti and Commissioner Pádraig Flynn.

Brussels Information Centre of the Bureau: BIC News

The Brussels Information Centre of the Bureau has recently published four new publications. Two of the publications form part of the *European languages series* which concentrate on various minority communities of the EU, in this case the Sámi community and the Yiddish and Judeo–Spanish.

The Sámi, the indigenous people of Northernmost Europe describes the Sami community in the three Scandinavian States and the Kola peninsula, their language, history and present day situation.

Yiddish and Judeo-Spanish, a European Heritage describes the history of these languages spoken by the Jewish communities.

Key Words: a step into the world of lesser used languages is a small glossary where the most current terms in the world of minority languages are presented in a concise and incisive way. It has been revised and published in three additional languages: German, Italian and Spanish.

The Brussels office has also been busy with various presentations. In collaboration with a number of MEPS a presentation on the Occitan language took place in the European Parliament, December last .

More recently at the beginning of May there was a launch of the publication *Calliope- Glimpses of a poetic tongue* an introduction to the poetry of five minority communities: Breton, Friulian, Galician, Sorb and Romany at the Brussels Festival of Languages. It formed part of a general Breton language presentation organised by the Brussels office at the Festival.

Finally a new office manager has been employed in the BIC since last January, a Catalan woman Aina Villalonga.

Gort na gCnamh

Five winning programmes in minority languages at the Celtic Film and Television Festival

Ireland hosted the Celtic Film and Television Festival in April 98 where five out of twelve prizes went to programmes in lesser used languages. The best documentary prize was won by the Irish programme, *Ar Imeall an Eiger and* Scotland won the entertainment prize for the Gaelic programme, *Tacsi*. The Welsh came away with the best young people's programme for *Rownd a Rownd* and the Spirit of the Festival award for *Cameleon*. New on the scene, but showing great promise, were the Northern Irish who won the first time director prize for *Gort na gCnamh*.

According to Frances Hendron, the director of the Celtic Film and Television Association: "It is a very conscious decision that minority and majority language productions stand side by side in the festival, and that the emphasis is constantly on the quality of the work." While entries in Celtic languages are especially welcome entries in any language are also eligible, with subtitling in English or French. Out of a short list of 66 entries, there were 26 minority language entries. "It is significant that the quality of programmes from the minority languages is constantly improving," added Hendron, "and that the existence of broadcasting companies such as S4C in Wales and Teilifis na Gaeilge in Ireland has greatly contributed to this." The drama programmes produced in minority languages are particularly impressive and the director cited the Welsh film *Cameleon* as an example of this.

Quality is something the festival can definitely say it puts its name to. There have been a series of prize-winning films in the festival which went on to be nominated for the Oscars such as the Irish film *Dance Lexie Dance* and the Scottish short film *Franz Kafka It's a Wonderful Life* which won an Oscar. Both films as it happens were English language productions. Let's hope that we will look to the day when a minority language film will succeed in winning an Oscar.

LLUIS LLACH

A Bridge of Blue Sea

"Unity in diversity" is very close to being a eurocliché, whether used by nation-states or the linguistic minorities. How much more effective that concept is when expressed artistically and with feeling. That is what Lluis Llach the Catalan singer and his group have done in their stage show and CD of the same name *Un pont de mar blava*.

The unity is that of the Mediterranean, the "bridge of blue sea" of the title, which brings us together in a sense of our different lives. The texts of the songs are written by Lluis Llach and Miquel Marti i Pol, but the musical styles come from Greece, Bosnia, Catalonia and the Arab world. The solo voices also come from different traditions and there is a wonderful variety of tempo. But this is not a collection of disparate songs. The whole programme, words and musical arrangement are conceived as a whole, and the use of the same instrumental group gives everything a unity of tone.

In the 1970s when you could still hear the words above the beat of popular songs, singers played an important role in cultural and political mobilisations in many minority areas, Stivell in Brittany, Dafydd Iwan in Wales and Lluis Llach in Catalonia. A Catalan audience will still sway from side to side and join in his song about a wooden post which you push this way and that until it finally falls. This was a coded message in the last days of the Franco regime. But times change and Lluis Llach's special talent has been to change without abandoning his background. This song-cycle belongs to an age conscious of being part of a wider pluralism, but that consciousness is expressed in Catalan.

I saw the performance that was specially arranged for delegates to the Barcelona Conference which launched the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights. I bought the CD at the airport and play it regularly. Perhaps the concept is transferable. I find myself wondering whether someone might not take the cultures and music of the people that surround the Irish Sea and do the same for them or the people surrounding the Baltic.

Ned Thomas, President of the UK Member State Committee of the Bureau

Update of European Programmes

The Study Visit Programme to Lesser Used Language Communities

The programme consists of a series of study visits in lesser used language communities in the EU. Language activists and practitioners in the field of education, media and public administration in these communities are encouraged to participate. This year there will be a series of thematic visits to the following communities: Catalonia, Wales, Nordschleswig in Denmark,Galicia, the Greek Community in Puglia, Italy and the Basque Community in France.

Application forms are available from the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, 10, Sráid Haiste Íocht, IRL- Baile Átha Cliath 2. Deadline for receipt of application is 30 June 98.

Budget Line B3- 1006 for Regional or Minority Languages

Objectives: To encourage initiatives in the fields of education, culture and information as well as to improve and promote the teaching of regional and minority languages from nursery school to adult training. To safeguard and promote regional or minority cultures and languages and to stimulate an exchange between them and transfer their experiences across Europe.

Next Deadline for receipt of applications: December 1 1998

Contact: Caroline Loup,DGXXII-Education, Training and Youth,Commission of the European Communities, 5-7 rue Belliard, B-1049 Brussels. T: +32.2.2995655

European Cultural Foundation

Objectives: Supports projects focusing on the educational and informative dimensions of culture in a number of fields.

Next Deadline for receipt of applications: 15 September 1998

Contact ECF, Jan Van Govendake 5, NL-1075 HN Amsterdam Tel:+31.20.6750222

Raphael

Objective: To encourage the development of European cultural heritage.

Next Deadline for receipt of applications: 10 September 1998

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Nouvelle direction pour le Bureau

Presse quotidienne en Langues minoritaires

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de la Charte européenne des
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Autriche	Malte
Chypre	Norvège
Croatie	Pays-
Danemark	Roum
Espagne	Slovénie
Finlande	Suisse
Hongrie	Ukraine
Liechtenstein	
Luxembourg	

atification de la Charte europ
s langues régionales ou mino
par les Etats membres

Croatie
Finlande
Hongrie
Liechtenstein
Pays-Bas
Norvège
Suisse

Signer la Charte, ou toute co
de cette sorte, implique que
d'accord avec les principes
renferme et devrait aboutir
ratification.

Pour plus de renseigneme
www.coe.fr/eng/legaltxt/14
www.coe.fr/fr/txtjur/148f

Une Conférence internationale marque l'entrée en vigueur de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires

« Une simple absence de discrimination n'est pas suffisante pour protéger les langues dont la position est faible. L'objet principal est de concevoir des mesures positives pour promouvoir les langues regionales ou minoritaires ». Ainsi s'exprimait M. Philip Blair du Conseil de l'Europe lors de l'ouverture de la Conférence internationale qui a eu lieu à Strasbourg à la fin du mois de mars pour marquer l'entrée en vigueur de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires. Vingt et un gouvernements européens ainsi qu'une délégation du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues et des experts provenant d'associations de langues minoritaires ont participé à cet événement historique.

M. Philip Blair et M. Ferdinando Albanese du Conseil de l'Europe à la Conférence

Cette Charte lie légalement l'Etat qui la ratifie et elle accorde une protection importante aux langues minoritaires dans les domaines de l'enseignement, de la justice, des autorités administratives et des services publics, des médias, des activités culturelles et de la vie économique et sociale. Sa mise en œuvre pratique dans ces domaines était l'objet principal de cette conférence au cours de laquelle des représentants du Bureau sont abondamment intervenus. Il était de bon augure qu'au cours de la conférence un certain nombre de délégations officielles ont déclaré que leur gouvernement avait l'intention de ratifier la Charte. La Slovénie, l'Espagne et l'Italie, au cours des deux années à venir et l'Allemagne, d'ici l'automne 1998.

M. Ferdinando Albanese, Directeur de l'Environnement et des Autorités locales du Conseil de l'Europe, qui a présidé la conférence et a été l'instigateur de la Charte depuis 1989, a donné à *Contact Bulletin* une analyse exclusive de la convention.

La Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires est entrée en vigueur le 1er mars 1998 pour les sept Etats qui l'ont ratifiée : la Croatie, la Finlande, le Liechtenstein, les Pays-Bas, la Norvège et la Suisse. Dix Etats l'ont signée mais ne l'ont pas encore ratifiée.

C'est un moment de grande satisfaction pour tous ceux qui ont œuvré pour aboutir à ce résultat, y compris le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues qui a beaucoup contribué aux négociations et à l'action visant à convaincre les Etats de ratifier la Convention.

Pour la première fois dans le droit public international, une Convention internationale spécifique est consacrée à la protection et à la promotion des langues régionales ou minoritaires en Europe. Il est vrai que la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales - qui est entrée en vigueur le 1er février 1998, c'est à dire un mois avant la Charte européenne - concerne aussi les langues des minorités mais les objectifs et l'accent des deux instruments sont différents.

En ce qui concerne la Charte européenne, la promotion et la protection des langues régionales ou minoritaires sont l'objet spécifique du texte tandis que dans ses articles 10, 11, 12 et 14, la Convention-cadre vise à protéger les personnes appartenant à une minorité nationale et les dispositions concernant les langues sont un moyen de protéger les minorités. La langue elle-même n'est pas l'objet spécifique d'une protection.

En outre, la référence au concept de minorité laisse en suspens la question de savoir si les langues régionales doivent être considérées comme des langues qui sont parlées par une minorité et sont par conséquent couvertes par la Convention-cadre. Le Droit National des Parties contractantes tranchera cette question puisque chaque Partie donnera sa définition du terme « minorité ».

L'entrée en vigueur de la Charte européenne crée une garantie internationale pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires qui sont parlées par les Parties contractantes. Bien qu'elle ne « crée » pas de droits individuels ou collectifs, il me semble que, dans un sens politique, quatre droits sont reconnus pour les locuteurs des langues régionales ou minoritaires pour la première fois : a) le droit d'exister ; b) le droit de conserver leur identité ou culture personnelle ; c) le droit de communiquer aux autres leur propre richesse culturelle et d) le droit à la dignité.

Ainsi, les mesures concrètes qui sont proposées dans la Charte contribueront énormément, je l'espère, à préserver un aspect important du patrimoine culturel européen - la diversité linguistique - et à construire une Europe multiculturelle aussi bien au niveau européen qu'au niveau des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe.

Dans ce sens, la protection et le développement des langues régionales ou minoritaires ne devrait pas être vue comme un obstacle à l'apprentissage de la langue officielle de l'Etat. Dans un monde où on a tendance à considérer que les gens devraient « parler utile », c'est à dire auraient intérêt à parler la langue la plus répandue, la Charte revendique clairement le principe contraire ; à savoir que les langues régionales ou minoritaires ne sont pas seulement l'expression naturelle d'une population au niveau local mais également un avantage culturel au niveau national et au niveau européen.

Au mois d'avril, le Comité des Ministres a désigné les membres du comité d'experts prévu par l'Article 17 de la Charte européenne (un membre pour chaque Etat contractant). Le rôle d'un tel comité est très important puisqu'il lui appartiendra de surveiller la conformité de la mesure nationale aux dispositions acceptées par les Parties contractantes et de faire, peut-être, des recommandations pour que la situation des langues régionales ou minoritaires s'améliore.

Espérons que les Etats proposeront des candidats de « la plus haute intégrité » et que les membres désignés exécuteront leur travail de façon indépendante et ne seront pas soumis aux instructions de leur gouvernement.

Ferdinando Albanese, Directeur de l'Environnement et des Autorités locales du Conseil de l'Europe.

Contact Bulletin a recueilli les commentaires de certaines personnes sur l'entrée en vigueur de la Convention :

Finlande: la ratification de la Charte et la législation intérieure qui en résulte

La Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires est entrée en vigueur le 1er mars et a lié la Finlande dès cette date. D'ici le 1er mars 1999, le gouvernement finlandais devra remettre son premier rapport sur les mesures prises en application des dispositions de la partie III qu'il a choisies et sur la politique suivie conformément aux principes de la partie II de la Charte.

La Charte a été incorporée dans le système juridique finlandais par le biais d'un décret gouvernemental. Dans son instrument de ratification, le gouvernement finlandais a déclaré qu'il appliquera 65 dispositions de la partie III à la langue suédoise en tant que langue officielle moins répandue et 59 dispositions à la langue sámi. Pour ce qui est des dispositions de l'Article 8, concernant l'enseignement, et de l'Article 12, concernant les activités et équipements culturels, dont trois au moins doivent être choisies, le gouvernement finlandais s'est engagé à appliquer 10 alinéas dans chacun de ces articles pour chacune des deux langues.

En matière de langues dépourvues de territoire, la déclaration affirmait que le gouvernement finlandais appliquera les principes énumérés dans la partie II à la langue romani (kalé) et aux autres langues dépourvues de territoire de la Finlande. Le libellé de la déclaration s'inspire de la Section 14 (3) de l'Acte de Constitution de la Finlande. La Finlande a donc choisi une énumération ouverte plutôt qu'exclusive, permettant ainsi d'invoquer les principes de la partie II en faveur d'autres langues historiques minoritaires dépourvues de territoire en Finlande telles que le tatar-turc et le russe.

La déclaration finlandaise place la barre assez haut en se concentrant sur les situations où la langue minoritaire jouit des garanties les plus larges. Les besoins des locuteurs d'une langue minoritaire ne sont pas toujours pour autant satisfaits. Par exemple, il n'y a pas un enseignement préscolaire en sámi dans toutes les municipalités de la patrie dite sámi. La déclaration ne tient pas compte du fait qu'il existe trois langues sámi en Finlande : le sámi septentrional, le sámi Skolt et le sámi Inari. En fait, la déclaration énumère les engagements vis-à-vis du sámi septentrional qui est la langue sámi dominante en Finlande. La déclaration expose principalement les garanties stipulées dans la législation finlandaise mais ne présente pas toujours un tableau fiable de leur mise en œuvre concrète.

Frank Horn, Institut du nord pour le Droit des Minorités et de l'Environnement, Université de la Laponie

Suède: un Etat qui examine la signature et la ratification de la Charte

L'avenir d'une nouvelle politique sur les minorités en Suède est entre les mains de centaines d'autorités nationales, régionales et locales, d'ONG et d'organisations concernant les minorités en Suède à qui le gouvernement suédois a demandé de présenter leurs opinions sur les récentes propositions qu'a émis un comité gouvernemental.

Les autorités, ONG et organisations ont jusqu'au 17 juillet pour fournir leur réponse par écrit et pour présenter leurs propres idées relatives à une future politique sur les minorités en Suède.

On espère que leur réponse aboutira à une proposition du gouvernement en fareur d'une ratification parlementaire de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires plus tard dans l'année ou au début de 1999.

La même procédure est applicable à la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales.

La Suède n'avait pas jusqu'ici de politique officielle relative aux questions minoritaires et on espère que cette situation va prendre fin. Le rapport du comite recommande que trois langues soient officiellement reconnues en tant que langues minoritaires en Suede : le finnois, le sami et le rom.

Le comite propose egalement que cinq nationalites, a savoir les Finlandais de Suède, les Sami, les Tornedaliens, les Rom et la communaute juive, soient formellement reconnues en tant que minorites nationales officielles. Le comite a même suggere qu'une ratification pourrait être renforcee par un changement dans la constitution suedoise a l'avenir.

Apres examen des recommandations soumises par toutes les organisations, le gouvernement presentera ses propositions au Parlement qui, si le gouvernement le decide, ratifiera les deux conventions europeennes au cours de l'annee prochaine.

Heikki A. Kirjavainen du Comite d'Etat membre suedois du Bureau europeen

France : les pressions pour obtenir la signature et la ratification de la Charte se poursuivent

Ces cinq dernieres annees, le comite français du Bureau ainsi que d'autres associations concernees n'ont cesse de faire pression pour que le gouvernement français signe et ratifie la Charte europeenne des langues regionales ou minoritaires. Ils ont contacte des deputes, des senateurs et des ministres et ont organise des manifestations dans les rues. En outre, des motions pour la signature et la ratification de la Charte ont eté proposées et adoptees dans des centaines d'autorités régionales et locales.

La manifestation la plus récente s'est produite le 4 avril dernier en Alsace, en Bretagne et au Pays basque où 10 000 personnes se sont mobilisées. Quelque 5 000 personnes sont descendues dans la rue a Bayonne, 4 500 a Rennes et 300 à Strasbourg. Elles demandaient qu'un statut juridique soit accorde aux langues regionales ou minoritaires, que des modifications soient apportees a l'Article 2 de la constitution française et que la France ratifie la Charte europeenne. On considere que les manifestations, qui ont reçu une importante couverture de presse, ont ete un succes. D'autres evenements qui impliqueront toutes les minorites françaises seront organisees à Paris dans les mois à venir.

Apres des annees de pressions, le Parlement français a etabli en mars dernier un intergroupe pour « les langues et cultures regionales ». 68 députés sur les 600 que compte le Parlement français font partie de l'intergroupe et tous les partis politiques y sont representes.

Un Comite républicain a été créé qui comprend des associations ayant trait aux langues minoritaires. Son objectif principal sera d'exercer des pressions pour que l'Article 2 de la constitution française soit change (celui-ci déclare que la langue de la République est le français). C'est cet article qui est actuellement utilisé pour faire opposition à tout changement juridique en faveur des langues régionales ou minoritaires en France. Lors d'une reunion du comite français qui a eu lieu le 11 mai 1998, il a ete decidé de soutenir les objectifs du comite.

Par ailleurs, le gouvernement français a demandé à la députée socialiste Nicole Pery, du Pays basque, d'établir un rapport sur la situation des « langues regionales » et sur la politique qui devrait être adoptee a leur égard. Mme Pery a rendu un premier rapport au mois de fevrier dernier qui recommande que la France signe et ratifie la Charte europeenne et qu'une loi specifique soit créée pour régir les langues regionales dans l'enseignement. M. Bernard Poignant, le maire de Kemper/Quimper en Bretagne l'a, depuis, remplacée. Il doit rendre son rapport et ses conclusions finales avant la fin du mois de juin.

Anna Vari Chapalain, Presidente du Comite d'Etat membre français du Bureau europeen

L'expérience néerlandaise

Que peuvent faire les Comités des Etats membres pour faire ratifier la Charte ?

En raison de la situation linguistique relativement simple qui regne aux Pays-Bas et du peu de différence qui existe entre le gouvernement provincial de la Frise et le gouvernement central, la procedure de ratification de la Charte n'a duré que trois ans aux Pays-Bas. Ce processus prend plus de temps dans les Etats membres qui possedent une variete de langues minoritaires et des structures politiques complexes.

En dehors de ces aspects internes, il y a un aspect general qui a ete souleve par le gouvernement neerlandais au cours du debat au sein du parlement et auquel il me semble qu'on ne prête pas suffisamment attention : la contribution de la Charte à la stabilite en Europe de l'Est. Du point de vue europeen, la Charte est un instrument international qui permet de comparer les positions des langues minoritaires, notamment des langues transfrontalières. La Charte peut contribuer a faire de la politique linguistique un sujet de discussion entre des Etats voisins. C'est justement pour cette raison que la Hongrie a été le premier pays à ratifier la Charte pour six langues : allemand, croate, rom, serbe, slovène et slovaque. Dans les pays voisins de la Hongrie, il y a aussi un certain nombre de minorites hongroises.

Dans les pays dont les gouvernements hésitent à ratifier la Charte, le Comite d'Etat membre (CEM) peut rediger un document et, pour chacune des langues minoritaires qu'il represente, proposer une liste bien documentee des options qu'il serait souhaitable de signer parmi les 97 options presentees dans la Partie III de la Charte. On pourrait etablir une distinction entre, d'un côté les options qui pourraient être facilement signées en raison de la position actuelle de la langue et de la politique linguistique et de l'autre, les options qui pourraient être signees dans un délai de, disons, dix ans, selon les programmes et les objectifs de planification linguistique. Ce document provisoire pourrait être présenté lors d'un seminaire ou d'une reunion avec le ministre chargé de la diversité linguistique a l'occasion de la Journée européenne des langues l'année prochaine.

Après la ratification :

En plus de la rédaction d'une telle proposition, dans plusieurs pays les CEM pourraient faire une demande pour être officiellement reconnus en tant qu'organes de contrôle (art. 7.4) que l'on consulterait pour designer l'expert national qui sera nommé par le Comité des Ministres (art. 15) de la Charte.

Alex Riemersma, President du Comite d'Etat membre neerlandais, Membre du Conseil d'Administration du Bureau

Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales

M. Frank Steketee, Conseiller Sections des Minorites du Conseil de L'Europe explique la convention.

Le 10 novembre 1994, le Comite des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe a adopte la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorites nationales. Ouverte a la signature le 1er fevrier 1995, la Convention-cadre a a ce jour été signée par 36 Etats membres et un Etat non membre (l'Armenie). La Roumanie, l'Espagne, la Slovaquie, la Hongrie, Chypre, la Moldavie, Saint-Marin, l'Estonie, l'ancienne Republique yougoslave de Macédoine, l'Allemagne, le Danemark, la Finlande, la Croatie, l'Italie, le Liechtenstein, la République tcheque, le Royaume-Uni, l'Ukraine, Malte, la Slovénie et l'Autriche l'ont ratifiée. Elle est entree en vigueur le 1er février 1998.

Bien que ce ne soit pas le premier instrument ayant trait à la protection des minorités nationales que developpe le Conseil de l'Europe, la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorites nationales est certainement le document le plus complet qui existe dans ce domaine. En fait, la Convention-cadre est le tout premier instrument multilateral liant toutes les parties en droit qui est consacré à la protection des minorites nationales en general.

Contenu de la Convention-cadre

De par sa nature, une Convention-cadre est différente d'une convention « normale ». Tandis qu'une Concention-cadre est une convention du fait que c'est un instrument qui lie juridiquement les parties conformement au droit international, l'ajout du mot « cadre » indique que les principes contenus dans l'instrument ne sont pas directement applicables dans les arrêtes juridiques intérieurs des Etats membres mais devront etre mis en œuvre par le biais de la législation nationale et de la politique gouvernementale appropriees. Cette nature specifique est evidente dans la Section II de la Convention-cadre.

Outre le preambule, la Convention-cadre compte 32 articles et est divisée en cinq sections.
Le CAHMIN, le comite pour la convention a decidé d'adopter une démarche pragmatique et de ne pas inclure de définition du terme « identité nationale » dans la Convention-cadre car il n'a pas été possible, à ce stade là, d'aboutir à une definition pouvant recueillir l'approbation de tous les Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe.

La *Section I* presente quelques principes generaux dont le principe selon lequel la protection des minorités nationales et des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales fait partie de la protection internationale des droits de l'homme. De plus, elle établit que chaque personne appartenant a une minorite nationale est libre de choisir d'être traitée ou non comme telle sans qu'aucun désavantage ne resulte de son choix.

La *Section II* est la partie d'execution principale de la Convention-cadre puisqu'elle contient les dispositions presentant les principes plus specifiques. Ces principes portent sur toute un serie de domaines, dont entre autres : la non-discrimination ; la promotion d'une veritable égalite ; la promotion des conditions relatives à la sauvegarde et au développement de la culture et à la sauvegarde de la religion, la langue et les traditions ; la liberte de rassemblement, d'association, d'expression, de pensee, de conscience et du culte ; l'accès aux et l'usage des medias ; les libertes linguistiques ; l'éducation ; les contacts transfrontaliers ; la coopération internationale et transfrontalière ; la participation a la vie économique, culturelle et sociale ; la participation à la vie publique ; la prohibition de l'assimilation forcée.

Certains de ces principes figurent déjà dans la Convention européenne des Droits de l'homme. Leur inclusion est particulièrement importante car non seulement le document n'en est que plus complet mais aussi parce que le Comité des Ministres peut inviter les Etats non membres à signer la Convention-cadre.

La *Section III* contient quelques dispositions importantes relatives à l'interpretation de la Convention-cadre. Par exemple, elle ne peut être interpretée comme impliquant le droit d'engager une quelconque activité contrevenant à l'intégrité territoriale et à l'indépendance politique des Etats. D'autre part, aucune des dispositions de la Convention-cadre ne peut être interprétée comme limitant les mesures plus elevees de protection des droits de l'homme garanties par d'autres instruments internationaux ou en application de la législation nationale.

La *section IV* présente les dispositions relatives à l'application de la Convention dont il est question ci-dessous.
La *Section V* a trait aux dispositions finales.

Suivi de la Convention-cadre

Les règles qui gouvernent le suivi de la Convention-cadre sont exposées dans les articles 24 à 26 de la Convention-cadre et dans « Les regles sur les dispositions de suivi en vertu des articles 24-26 de la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales » (Résolution (97) 10) du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe.

La Convention-cadre établit un système de suivi base sur les rapports des Parties contractantes. Ces rapports seront examinés en premier lieu par un Comité consultatif d'experts indépendants. Le Comité consultatif doit préparer un avis qu'il enverra au Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe.

Le Comité consultatif sera constitué d'un minimum de douze et d'un maximum de dix-huit *membres ordinaires*. Les candidats doivent repondre aux conditions requises pour devenir membres (qualifications et aptitude) :
- posseder une expertise reconnue dans le domaine de la protection des minorités nationales ;
- servir à titre individuel , être independant et impartial, et être disponible pour servir efficacement la communaute.

La Convention-cadre distingue deux sortes de rapports : les rapports périodiques et les rapport ad hoc qui peuvent être demandes à une Partie contractante par le Comité des Ministres lorsqu'il le décide. Les rapports devront contenir « des informations complètes sur les mesures législatives et autres, prises en application des principes

exposés dans cette Convention-cadre. » Les Rapports d'Etat remis par les Parties contractantes seront rendus publics par le Conseil de l'Europe.
La tâche du Comité consultatif est d'examiner les rapports d'Etat et de préparer un avis sur les mesures prises par la Partie contractante. Pour ce faire, un certain nombre de méthodes de travail sont mises à sa disposition : il peut demander des informations supplémentaires à une Partie contractante ou à d'autres - individus et ONG ; il peut organiser des réunions avec des gouvernements ou d'autres organes.

L'avis du Comité consultatif sera en règle générale rendu public ainsi que les conclusions du Comité des Ministres.
Ayant reçu l'avis du Comité consultatif, le Comité des Ministres prendra les décisions finales (appelées conclusions) relatives à la conformité des mesures prises par la Partie contractante.
Il pourra également, le cas échéant, adopter des recommandations à une Partie contractante.
Une fois adoptées, les conclusions et les recommandations du Comité des Ministres seront rendues publiques de même que les observations que peuvent soumettre les Parties contractantes sur l'avis émis par le Comité consultatif.

Le Comité consultatif peut, à la demande du Comité des Ministres, participer au suivi des conclusions et des recommandations.

Pour de plus amples renseignements sur la Convention-cadre :
www.coe.fr/eng/legaltxt/157e.htm
www.coe.fr/txjur/157fr.htm

Budget 1998 : le vote du Parlement européen : plus d'argent pour les langues minoritaires et un BELMR représentatif

Davantage d'argent pour les minorités linguistiques et un BELMR très représentatif : le Parlement européen a fait ressortir ces deux arguments lorsqu'il a voté pour le budget européen de 1998.

En 1997, 3 675 000 Ecus avaient été alloués aux langues régionales ou minoritaires. La Commission des budgets, qui est présidée par Stanislaw Tillich, un sorabe d'Allemagne, a décidé d'augmenter cette somme qui sera de 4 millions d'Ecus en 1998. La décision a été adoptée par l'Assemblée plénière du Parlement européen au mois de décembre. C'est un signe positif après les réductions des dernières années. La ligne budgétaire pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires, B3-1006, est gérée par la DGXXII de la Commission européenne. Elle aide à financer de nombreux projets ayant trait aux langues minoritaires et à sauvegarder les langues autochtones européennes non-officielles, ainsi que quelques structures importantes relatives aux minorités telles que les centres Mercator et le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues.

C'est la première fois que le BELMR est spécifiquement mentionné dans le budget européen. Cette référence indique que le Parlement souhaite voir le Bureau fonctionner efficacement et est d'une grande importance politique. Elle reconnaît clairement le rôle que joue le BELMR dans le domaine des langues moins répandues.

Il n'en reste pas moins que le Parlement européen a décidé de réduire la subvention accordée au Bureau. Il n'a placé que 400 000 Ecus en réserve pour son fonctionnement en 1998. Il n'est cependant pas exclu que le Bureau puisse négocier des subventions supplémentaires pour des projets spécifiques. Il s'agit toutefois d'une réduction considérable et le Bureau va devoir subir des changements profonds et accomplir un effort extraordinaire pour continuer à coordonner et à servir les communautés linguistiques comme il l'a fait jusqu'ici. De plus, la somme est attachée à une condition précise : « Le Conseil du Bureau doit faire preuve d'une grande représentativité ».

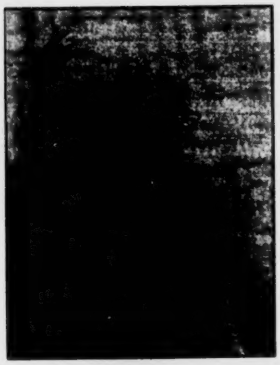
La somme allouée au Bureau et la formulation de la condition qui l'accompagne ont fait beaucoup de bruit au cours des mois qui ont précédé le vote final du Parlement européen pour le budget de 1998. La question de la représentativité du Bureau a fait l'objet de nombreuses discussions : quelle sorte de représentativité le Bureau devrait-il et peut-il démontrer ? Il est de toute évidence impossible que chaque communauté linguistique élise directement ses représentants au Conseil du BELMR. Comment le Bureau peut-il agir au mieux en leur faveur et en faveur des langues qu'elles parlent est donc la question qui reste en suspens.

Plusieurs projets de modifications, présentés par le député européen gallois, Eluned Morgan, de la Commission de la Culture, ont essayé de fixer des règles précises pour la représentativité du BELMR. Il était spécifié par exemple que les organes linguistiques officiels, là où ils existaient, devraient avoir la possibilité de représenter leurs communautés au Conseil du BELMR s'ils le désirent et qu'un représentant de chaque communauté linguistique au lieu de deux représentants de chaque comité d'Etat membre devrait faire partie de ce Conseil. Bien que finalement le Parlement européen n'ait pas adopté ces modifications, elles peuvent toutefois faire réfléchir et stimuler des débats à ce sujet. En outre, les membres du Conseil du BELMR les examineront certainement au cours de leur débat démocratique en cours sur la structure et le fonctionnement du Bureau.

Le Conseil du BELMR réuni en assemblée à Bozen/Bolzano en février a essayé de faire les premiers pas dans la voie indiquée par le Parlement européen. Mais les questions de la représentativité et de l'efficacité du BELMR qui ont été soulevées ne peuvent être résolues une fois pour toutes grâce à une solution unique. Devenir plus efficace et plus représentatif sera sûrement être un processus continu auquel toutes les communautés linguistiques devront apporter leur contribution personnelle.

Ivana Suhadolc du Comité d'Etat membre italien

Le défi du **millénaire**



Ce numéro de **Contact Bulletin**, le bulletin d'information du BELMR est la première occasion que j'ai en tant que nouveau président du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues de m'adresser à nos lecteurs à travers l'Europe. C'est une occasion importante que je ne voudrais pas manquer ; ceci dit je vais être bref.

Lorsque j'ai accepté ma nomination au poste de président, je savais parfaitement que notre organisation allait devoir traverser une période importante de changement. Ceci ne surprendra pas ceux qui savaient depuis déjà quelque temps que des changements étaient nécessaires. Le besoin de changer ne doit pas non plus être considéré comme une tragédie. Nous sommes persuadés que le BELMR a bien fait son travail mais qu'il lui faut maintenant fonctionner dans un contexte nouveau.

Il y a surtout une raison pour laquelle des changements sont nécessaires : l'Europe est en train de changer rapidement et dans quelques années tous les Européens vivront dans une Europe différente.

L'Etat-nation est un concept qui appartient au passé. Il y a une dizaine d'années, les nationalistes dans la plupart des pays européens s'opposaient à la diversité et leurs activités avaient pour but de maintenir les frontières de la nation, la monnaie, l'armée, la langue et le drapeau.

Maintenant que le rideau de fer n'existe plus et que la plupart des frontières intérieures ont disparu grâce au traité de Schengen, que l'euro va remplacer la monnaie nationale dans onze Etats et que la plupart des armées coopèrent dans le cadre de missions de maintien de la paix, il n'y a plus qu'un centre de coordination. Le drapeau bleu paré de ses douze étoiles jaunes est en train de devenir notre drapeau commun. Dans quelques années, d'autres Etats auront rejoint notre famille européenne.

Ce sont les faits. C'est le défi devant lequel nous nous trouvons tous et c'est la raison pour laquelle le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues doit changer. On dit qu'il doit survivre. Mais les on-dit ne suffisent pas lorsqu'il s'agit du défi que nous devons relever dans les années à venir. Nous sommes fermement convaincus qu'il faut que nous développions nos activités si nous voulons atteindre deux objectifs principaux :

Le premier est l'élaboration d'une politique européenne commune pour la sauvegarde et la promotion de nos langues. Nous savons que le Parlement européen et le Comité des régions ont profondément conscience de ce besoin. De plus, la Commission européenne est en train de considérer cette question sans plus attendre.

Depuis quinze ans, nous nous efforçons de convaincre la majorité des gouvernements des Etats membres de l'UE de cette nécessité. Cela va être plus facile maintenant parce qu'ils réalisent que, dans le contexte général de l'intégration européenne, ils sont en train de faire fausse route.

Le deuxième objectif est d'étendre cette politique européenne commune aux Etats qui vont adhérer à l'Union Européenne à l'avenir. Dans certains de ces Etats, les questions relatives aux minorités n'ont jusqu'ici été considérées que comme des éléments de tension et de conflit. Parmi les documents internationaux ayant trait à ces questions, se trouve le document de la Commission européenne, Agenda 2000, sur les Etats membres candidats de l'UE, qui considère que cet aspect politique est le plus important et même le plus pertinent. Il y a peut-être ici du vrai mais il nous faut lutter pour convaincre les gens que les langues minoritaires dans les Etats de l'Europe de l'Est et centrale ne doivent pas être considérées comme de simples sources de tension et de conflit : elle font partie de notre patrimoine culturel européen commun. Nous n'avons pas le pouvoir de réaliser ces deux objectifs seuls. Comme nous l'avons fait par le passé, nous devons nous unir avec les personnes et les organisations qui sont convaincues que c'est la bonne voie à suivre. Il faut que nous développions nos activités dans toutes ces directions et que nous soyons prêts à exercer notre influence à tout moment. C'est le défi que nous devons relever alors que le nouveau millénaire approche.

Bojan Brezigar, Président du Bureau européen

Nouvelle direction pour le Bureau:

L'Assemblée annuelle du Bureau européen à Bozen/Bolzano

Le nouveau président du Bureau, Bojan Brezigar, et un nouveau Conseil d'Administration ont été élus lors de l'Assemblée annuelle du Bureau européen qui s'est tenue à Bozen/Bolzano en février dernier. Le nouveau président, un Slovène d'Italie, est un membre actif du Bureau depuis ses débuts ainsi que le rédacteur en chef du quotidien de langue slovène *Primorski Dnevnik*. Les deux nouveaux vice-présidents sont Christian Brandt, un Suédois de Finlande, et Peadar Ó Flatharta, un Irlandais. Les autres membres du nouveau Conseil d'Administration qui a été élu pour trois ans sont Jean-Luc Fauconnier de la communauté wallonne en Belgique, Aureli Argemí de Catalogne et Alex Riemersma de Frise.

Lors de l'assemblée, il a été jugé nécessaire que le Bureau prenne une nouvelle direction. Un projet de document concernant la restructuration et la stratégie future de l'organisation a été mis au vote et approuvé par le Conseil du Bureau. La disposition la plus importante dans ce document est la demande d'une plus grande représentativité et d'une plus grande activité au sein des Comités des Etats membres qui « forment la base du BELMR ». Le nouveau Conseil d'Administration compte suivre de très près l'évolution des CEM et un rapport actualisé sur ces progrès sera un des points les plus importants à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine réunion du Conseil au mois de septembre 1998. Le Président et le nouveau Conseil d'Administration traitent avec beaucoup de sérieux la demande de la Commission européenne et du Parlement relative à une plus grande représentativité. C'est d'ailleurs une question qui a fait l'objet de nombreux débats au cours de l'année dernière. Ils lui accordent par conséquent la priorité lors de leur nouveau mandat.

Parmi les autres dispositions que contient le document de Bozen, on mentionnera l'expansion du Bureau d'ici l'an 2000 vers les Etats candidats de l'UE. Il est également recommandé que l'on cherche à développer davantage le statut d'ONG du Bureau. On a déjà obtenu un tel statut auprès du Conseil de l'Europe et de l'UNESCO. D'autres recommandations portent sur des projets concrets tels que la création d'une agence de presse pour les minorités et la célébration d'une Journée européenne des Langues chaque année.

Lors de l'Assemblée annuelle les premières mesures ont été prises en vue d'un nouveau Bureau restructuré que le Conseil d'Administration nouvellement élu a l'intention de diriger vers l'an 2000.

Présentation des membres du Conseil d'Administration

Christian Brandt fait partie de la minorité suédoise en Finlande. Il vit à Helsinki et est Secrétaire Général de l'Assemblée suédoise de la Finlande. M. Brandt a été élu au Conseil d'Administration en décembre 1995 et s'est engagé depuis lors à œuvrer pour que le BELMR se transforme en une organisation moderne et représentative pour les langues minoritaires dans l'UE. Dans ce but, des efforts considérables ont été faits pour que nos langues soient plus visibles dans tous les médias de l'UE. Il est vice-président du CA et ses responsabilités comprennent le personnel et les CEM de Suède, de Finlande et du Danemark.

Peadar O Flatharta est président du Comité d'Etat membre irlandais du BELMR et directeur du Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, un congrès de langue nationale et d'organisations culturelles en Irlande. Professionnellement et personnellement, il s'intéresse au comportement des organisations en particulier et au secteur social à but non lucratif. Il pense que le rôle du BELMR doit être renforcé pour permettre aux communautés linguistiques de survivre et de prospérer et pour qu'il y ait davantage de participation et de représentation dans le processus de prise de décision d'autant plus que nous nous dirigeons vers une Europe plus fédérale.

Alex Riemersma vient de Frise aux Pays-Bas. Il est codirecteur de Berie foar it Frysk, le Conseil de la langue frisonne et du conseil consultatif du gouvernement provincial de Frise en matière de politique et de planification linguistiques. En tant que nouvel administrateur, il a été nommé rapporteur des finances et des Comités d'Etats membres allemand, autrichien et néerlandais. M. Riemersma entend contribuer au travail du BELMR de deux façons particulières : d'une part, il souhaite renforcer le rôle des CEM par rapport aux deux agences du Bureau en les faisant participer activement aux projets du BELMR. D'autre part, il souhaite renforcer l'association directe d'autres organisations avec le BELMR grâce à leur participation active à des projets qui sont financés par des sources européennes autres que la ligne budgétaire pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires.

Jean-Luc Fauconnier wallon, est employé par le Ministère de la Communauté française de Belgique. Il préside le Conseil des Langues régionales endogènes de cette même communauté. Il est également rédacteur du périodique MicRomania qui est consacré à la littérature contemporaine en langues régionales romanes. Au Conseil d'Administration, il est responsable du Centre d'Information de Bruxelles du Bureau européen ainsi que de la coordination des Comités des Etats membres de la Belgique et du Luxembourg. Fervent défenseur de la démocratie linguistique et considère que toutes les langues quel que soit leur statut devraient être protégées et promues ; c'est une question de respect envers leurs locuteurs et le pluralisme culturel. Il souhaite par conséquent que la politique du BELMR dans ce domaine continue d'être un modèle d'ouverture et de tolérance.

Aureli Argemi est originaire de la Catalogne et est directeur du CIEMEN, une ONG catalane visant à défendre et à promouvoir les droits collectifs, y compris les droits linguistiques. Il est également président du Comité d'Etat membre espagnol. Au Conseil d'Administration, il est chargé de la France et de l'Espagne. M. Argemi fait partie du Bureau depuis 1986 et il considère que depuis ce temps-là, le Bureau européen a réussi à faire mieux connaître toutes les langues de l'Europe à travers ce continent, grâce à quoi l'identité de l'Europe est maintenant mieux comprise. Il est maintenant nécessaire que l'organisation aille plus loin et fournisse ses services plus efficacement afin de justifier son existence. Il faut que le Bureau devienne plus représentatif de la société et plus connu en son sein, plus indépendant des institutions publiques afin de collaborer plus efficacement avec elles et qu'il ait des objectifs plus précis. C'est à ce tournant de l'existence du Bureau qu'il se réjouit de travailler au sein de organisation.

Conférence européenne de la Presse quotidienne en Langues minoritaires

Des projets pour ce qui pourrait devenir une véritable agence de presse ont été élaborés lors d'une conférence qui a réuni les rédacteurs en chef de trente et un quotidiens en langues minoritaires à Trieste au mois d'avril. Cette occasion historique reflète d'une part le développement politique et social en Europe, grâce auquel les minorités ont plus conscience de l'existence des unes et des autres et de leur besoin d'être plus en vue vis à vis des institutions européennes et des populations de langue majoritaire, et d'autre part le fait que de nouveaux moyens de communication électroniques bon marché sont maintenant disponibles et permettent d'établir des réseaux auxquels on ne pouvait qu'aspirer jusqu'ici.

Vingt-quatre rédacteurs provenaient de l'Union européenne tandis que d'autres appartenaient à des minorités en [illegible] Estonie et en Croatie. Il y avait aussi des représentants de deux journaux albanais de Kosovo en exil. Les deux groupes les plus grands étaient les Catalans et les Suédois de Finlande. Ces derniers sont des lecteurs de journaux invétérés comme le prouve le fait qu'il existe deux quotidiens sur les îles Åland pour une population qui ne dépasse pas les 20 000 personnes.

Le Bureau européen est en train d'élaborer un projet-pilote dans le cadre duquel des journalistes professionnels dans quelques communautés linguistiques fourniraient des informations ayant trait aux minorités linguistiques à un bureau à Bruxelles en échange de quoi ils recevraient eux aussi des informations, créant ainsi les éléments de base d'une agence de presse spécialisée dans les questions linguistiques. Les journalistes ne s'intéressent évidemment pas qu'aux questions linguistiques et ils pourront, grâce à la base de données du project Mercator Média Projet, établir et accéder à une liste de contacts relative à la presse dans d'autres régions d'Europe et s'en servir pour faire des articles sur toutes sortes de sujets.

La conférence a été organisée par Primorski Dnevnik, le quotidien [illegible] avec la collaboration de l'Institut de Recherche [illegible] et de Mercator Média Projet de l'université du pays de Galles. L'événement a reçu le soutien financier de la DGXXII de la Commission européenne et d'un certain nombre de sponsors locaux.

Ned Thomas, Président du Comité d'Etat membre du Royaume-Uni

L'Accord en Irlande du Nord

Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues salue l'inclusion d'un certain nombre de propositions positives concernant la langue et la **culture dans l'accord de paix multipartite en Irlande du** Nord. Nous saluons notamment la reconnaissance explicite de l'importance du respect, de la compréhension et de la tolérance vis à vis de la diversité linguistique, ce qui, en Irlande du Nord, inclut la langue irlandaise, le scots de l'Ulster et les langues des diverses communautés ethniques qui font toutes partie de la richesse culturelle de l'île irlandaise. La langue et la culture se trouvent au cœur de l'identité d'un peuple et il nous semble que le respect des différentes identités est absolument nécessaire pour que naisse un nouveau climat de paix et d'harmonie. Nous nous réjouissons également de voir que le Royaume-Uni semble sérieusement envisager de signer la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires.

Résolution adoptée par le Conseil d'Administration du Bureau à Graz, le 25 avril 1998.

Nouvelles des **Comités d'Etats membres** du Bureau

Pays Bas

Frise

Simmerbarren 500 – Séminaire de la Jeunesse sur le travail et l'emploi en Frise:
L'organisation de la jeunesse frisonne, Frysk Ynternasjonaal Kontakt (FYK) célèbre le 500ème anniversaire de l'autonomie de la Frise en organisant un séminaire sur la jeunesse et l'emploi. Les jeunes Frisons savent très bien qu'un taux élevé de chômage est un facteur commun parmi les jeunes des communautés minoritaires. Le séminaire est par conséquent ouvert à des délégués internationaux afin qu'un échange de points de vue et qu'une séance de remue-méninges puissent avoir lieu à ce sujet. Le séminaire se tiendra du 25 juillet au 1er août 1998. Pour tous renseignements complémentaires, s'adresser à : Simmerbarren 500, Postbus 536, 8901 BH Ljouwert, Pays-Bas. Tél. : +31 58 2152562 ; télécopie : 2165474

Belgique

La Communauté wallonne

500ème numéro de la revue en langue wallonne el bourdon
Le 500ème numéro d'èl bourbon, une revue mensuelle en langue wallonne, est consacré à son fondateur Félicien Barry (1899-1985). Il comprend une biographie, une analyse de son style littéraire et des textes choisis. Pour de plus amples informations, contacter : Danièle Trempont, rue de Landelies, 42, B-6110 Montigny-le-Tilleul.
Le Conseil des Langues régionales endogènes est rétabli jusqu'en l'an 2000.
Le Conseil des Langues régionales endogènes a été rétabli pour une deuxième phase qui ira de 1997 à l'an 2000 par les ministres Charles Picqué et Jean-Claude Cauwenbergue. Les langues régionales de la communauté wallonne en Belgique incluent le champenois, le francique, le lorrain, le picard et le wallon, langues qui sont officiellement reconnues par un décret. La politique de promotion de c[illegible] langues a été confiée au Conseil des Langues régionales endogènes, une organisation consultative officielle comprenant 24 experts qui est présidée par Jean-Luc Fauconnier, un membre du Conseil d'Administration du BELMR. Lors de cette seconde phase leurs nouvelles tâches incluront le développement d'un rapport sur la Charte européenne, un rapport sur ces langues dans le domaine des médias et de l'éducation ainsi qu'une liste de noms de municipalités traduits en ces langues.

Italie

Conférence sur les minorités linguistiques du sud de l'Italie à Termoli:
En février dernier, une conférence sur les minorités linguistiques du sud de l'Italie a été organisée par la Confemili, le CEM italien du Bureau, à Termoli. L'albanais et le croate sont parlés dans sept municipalités de la région. Les participants se sont mis d'accord sur deux documents finaux concernant la loi-cadre devant être soumise à l'approbation du Parlement à Rome ainsi que sur plusieurs questions ayant trait aux minorités de la région de Molise.

Autriche

Le 8ème congrès des Minorités ethniques en Europe:
Les médias formaient le thème du 8ème congrès des Minorités ethniques en Europe qui a été organisé en Carinthie en collaboration avec la European Ethnic Broadcasting Association (EEBA), en novembre dernier. Plus d'une centaine de participants provenant de seize Etats ont pris part au congrès qui a été ouvert par le Président de l'Etat fédéral de Carinthie, Christoph Zernatto et par le secrétaire d'Etat à la Culture, Peter Wittmann.

France

Catalogne du Nord

Elections régionales:
Les partis politiques catalans, Unitat Catalana et Partit per Catalunya, ont décidé d'unir leurs forces et de présenter une liste commune de candidats sous la bannière « Energies catalanes » aux élections régionales du mois de mars dernier. De cette façon, ils pensaient avoir plus de chance d'influencer réellement les décisions concernant la culture catalane qui sont prises au niveau régional.

Royaume – Uni

Ecosse

Iurosgoil 99, le festival destiné aux enfants des écoles de langues moins répandues, se tiendra en Ecosse, sur les îles des Hébrides Lewis et Harris, au mois d'avril de l'année prochaine. Selon l'organisatrice, Kristine Kennedy, de Comunn na Gàidhlig, de nombreuses demandes ont déjà été reçues ; plus qu'ils ne l'avaient prévu. Pour l'instant, ils ont 14 groupes scolaires provenant de communautés qui vont des Sami au nord aux Occitans au sud.

En bref

Président de l'Intergroupe « Langues minoritaires » — Joan Vallvé. L'Intergroupe « Langues minoritaires » du Parlement européen a été établi en 1983 et a pour objectif principal de veiller à la mise en œuvre des résolutions du PE sur les langues moins répandues et de les promouvoir sans cesse notamment lorsqu'il s'agit des allocations budgétaires. M. Joan Vallvé, le parlementaire européen catalan appartenant au Groupe libéral, démocratique et réformateur européen est le président de l'Intergroupe « Langues minoritaires » du Parlement européen depuis le mois de septembre dernier.

Projet visant à accroître le nombre d'étudiants provenant des groupes minoritaires:

Au mois de janvier, les parlementaires ont remis aux gouvernements des lignes directrices pour faire en sorte que plus de jeunes provenant des groupes minoritaires fassent des études supérieures. L'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe a pressé les 47 gouvernements qui ont signé la Convention culturelle européenne du Conseil de suivre une série de principes-clés lorsqu'ils réexaminent leurs politiques éducatives. Parmi les principes que préconise la députe finlandaise Tytti Isohookana-Asunmaa, on note : l'occasion pour chacun d'étudier ses propres langue et culture au niveau universitaire ; l'enseignement public pour les minorités linguistiques ; la possibilité pour ces étudiants de passer des examens en langues minoritaires pour poursuivre des études supérieures ou suivre une formation d'enseignant

Une Loi pour la Langue et la Culture sardes

Une nouvelle loi régionale pour la promotion de la langue et la culture sardes est entrée en vigueur le 1er janvier 1998. Le Conseil régional sarde avait déjà essayé de faire passer une loi pour protéger la langue régionale de l'île mais le projet de loi avait été rejeté deux fois de suite par le Conseil d'Etat à Rome. La cour administrative centrale italienne objectait que la protection d'une langue ne relevait pas de la compétence de l'organe législatif régional et qu'on ne pouvait décider des programmes scolaires au niveau régional. Grâce à la persévérance du Conseil régional sarde qui a reformulé plusieurs fois cette loi, la richesse de la langue et de la culture locales a fini par être reconnue.

La nouvelle loi, qui a été adoptée le 11 septembre 1997, reconnaît « l'identité culturelle du peuple sarde » et accorde le même statut au sarde qu'à l'italien. Elle fait explicitement référence à la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires ainsi qu'à la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales bien que seule cette dernière soit actuellement entrée en vigueur en Italie. Cette loi ne propose pas de mesures spécifiques mais établit toute une série d'outils précieux pour promouvoir la langue et la culture sardes tels que l'Observatoire régional et un réseau de musées et de bibliothèques. En outre, elle prévoit un inventaire général du patrimoine linguistique et culturel sarde (ce qui est particulièrement important étant donné que le sarde n'a toujours pas de « koine », c'est à dire de langue commune mais est divisé en plusieurs dialectes). Avant tout, la loi prévoit des fonds pour une série de programmes et d'initiatives éventuels, tels que des cours de sarde dans les écoles et les universités ou des projets culturels au sein des médias régionaux. En outre, elle déclare que la langue sarde peut être librement employée dans l'administration publique si le gouvernement local désire introduire son usage dans ses règlements. La loi prévoit aussi l'emploi de la toponymie sarde d'origine.

« Le droit à la parole » et « une révolution culturelle » : tels étaient les gros titres de l'un des principaux magazines italiens à propos de la nouvelle loi, ce qui indique que l'opinion publique italienne est de plus en plus bienveillante envers les langues minoritaires. Il est grand temps que cette bienveillance se traduise en loi. Les locuteurs des langues moins répandues en Italie souhaitent maintenant que le parlement national approuve une loi-cadre pour la protection des minorités linguistiques.

Ivana Suhadolc

Nouvelles du **Bureau européen**

Siège social de Dublin (Dublin Head Office) : Nouvelles du DHO

Le siège social de Dublin du Bureau européen a organisé, en collaboration avec le Centre européen des Langues modernes, un atelier sur le thème « L'Est rencontre l'Ouest - L'Unité dans la Diversité, » à Graz, du 23 au 25 avril dernier. L'atelier a été coordonné par Miguel Strubell, le directeur de l'Institut de la Sociolinguistique catalane et ses collaborateurs comprenaient Guillaume Siemienski, de la Fondation des Relations interethniques, Auke van der Goot, de Mercator-Education et le Secrétaire Général du Bureau européen, Dónall Ó Riagáin. Le but de l'atelier était de réunir les gens qui œuvrent pour les langues moins répandues dans les nouvelles démocraties de l'Europe centrale et de l'Est avec leurs homologues de l'Ouest. Il portait surtout sur les instruments juridiques internationaux tels que la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires et les autres instruments qui protègent et promeuvent les langues minoritaires. Les délégués venaient de pays aussi divers que l'Islande, Chypre, la région sami de la Norvège, Malte, l'Azerbaïdjan, l'Arménie, la Géorgie et les républiques baltes.

Le Rapport annuel des Visites d'Etude de 1996/97 est maintenant disponible et concerne les rapports des visites d'étude qui ont eu lieu l'année dernière dans la communauté suédoise de Finlande, la communauté finlandaise de Suède, la communauté allemande du Danemark, le Pays basque, la Galice, l'Ecosse, et la Catalogne du Nord en France. Le Secrétaire Général du Bureau européen, Donall O Riagáin, a été l'une des cinq personnes qui ont été nommées en février dernier pour recevoir le prix « l'Européen de l'Année » en Irlande. La député européenne irlandaise, Mary Banotti, et le membre de la Commission, Pádraig Flynn, étaient au nombre des autres concurrents.

Centre d'Information de Bruxelles du Bureau : Nouvelles du CIB

Le Centre d'Information de Bruxelles du Bureau a récemment fait paraître quatre nouvelles publications. Deux d'entre elles font partie de la Collection Langues européennes qui porte sur diverses communautés minoritaires de l'UE. Il s'agit ici de la communauté sami et des communautés yiddish et judéo-espagnole.

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Les Sami, Le peuple indigène du Grand nord décrit la communauté sami dans les trois États scandinaves et la péninsule de Kola, sa langue, son histoire et sa situation actuelle.

Yiddish et Judéo – Espagnol un héritage européen décrit l'histoire de ces langues parlées par les communautés juives.

Mots-Clés - Entrez dans le monde des langues moins répandues est un petit glossaire qui présente les termes les plus courants en matière de langues minoritaires de façon concise et incisive. Il a été revu et publié en trois langues supplémentaires : allemand, italien et espagnol.

Le CIB s'est également occupé d'un certain nombre de présentations. En collaboration avec plusieurs députés européens, une présentation sur la langue occitane a été faite au Parlement européen au mois de décembre dernier. Plus récemment, au début du mois de mai, il y a eu le lancement de la publication **Calliope – Petites langues de poésie**, une introduction à la poésie de cinq communautés minoritaires : bretonne, frioulane, galicienne, sorabe et tsigane, lors du Festival des Langues de Bruxelles. Cela faisait partie d'une présentation générale sur la langue bretonne qui a été organisée par le CIB dans le cadre du Festival.

Enfin, une nouvelle Chef de Service a pris ses fonctions au CIB au mois de janvier dernier. Il s'agit de Aina Villalonga, une Catalane.

Gort na gCnamh

Cinq programmes en langues minoritaires récompensés au Festival du Film et de la Télévision celtiques

Cette année, l'Irlande a accueilli le Festival du Film et de la Télévision celtiques qui a eu lieu en avril. Cinq des douze prix ont été décernés à des programmes en langues moins répandues. Le prix du meilleur documentaire a été décerné au programme irlandais *Ar Imeall an Eiger*, tandis que l'Écosse a remporté le prix du divertissement pour le programme gaélique *Tacsi*. Les Gallois ont obtenu le prix du meilleur programme pour la jeunesse avec *Round a Round* et le prix « L'Esprit du Festival » pour *Cameleon*. Nouveaux au Festival mais très prometteurs, les Irlandais du Nord ont remporté le prix de la première réalisation pour *Gort na gCnamh*.

Selon Frances Hendron, la directrice de l'Association du Film et de la Télévision celtiques, « c'est tout à fait délibérément que les productions en langue minoritaire et majoritaire sont côte à côte au festival et que l'accent est constamment mis sur la qualité de l'œuvre. » Si les productions en langues celtiques sont particulièrement désirées à ce festival, les productions en toutes langues peuvent y participer si elles sont accompagnées de sous-titres en anglais ou en français. Sur 66 participants, 26 étaient en langues minoritaires.

« Il est révélateur que la qualité des programmes en langues moins répandues s'améliore sans cesse, a ajouté F. Hendron, et l'existence de sociétés de diffusion telles que S4C au pays de Galles et Teilifis na Gaeilge en Irlande y a énormément contribué. » Les œuvres dramatiques produites en langues minoritaires sont particulièrement impressionnantes et la directrice a cité le film gallois *Cameleon* en exemple.

La qualité est vraiment ce qui prime pour les organisateurs de ce festival. Certains des films qui ont remporté des prix ont ensuite été nominés pour un Oscar, tels que le film irlandais *Dance Lexie Dance et* le court métrage écossais *Franz Kafka It's a Wonderful Life*, qui a remporté un Oscar. Ces deux films étaient d'ailleurs des productions en langue anglaise. Espérons qu'un jour viendra où un film en langue minoritaire réussira à gagner un Oscar.

Un Pont de Mer bleue

« L'Unité dans la Diversité » est pratiquement un euro-cliché, que le terme soit utilisé par des États-nations ou par les minorités linguistiques. Ce concept est ô combien plus efficace lorsqu'il est exprimé de façon artistique et avec sentiment. C'est ce qu'ont fait le chanteur catalan, Lluis Llach, et son groupe, dans leur spectacle et CD du même nom, *Un pont de mar blava*.

L'unité est celle de la Méditerranée, le « pont de mer bleue » du titre, qui nous réunit dans le sentiment que nous avons de vivre des vies différentes. Les paroles des chansons ont été écrites par Lluis Llach et Miquel Marti i Pol mais les styles musicaux viennent de Grèce, de Bosnie, de Catalogne et du monde arabe. Les solos proviennent aussi de traditions diverses et il y a une variété formidable de tempos. Ceci n'est cependant pas un ensemble de chansons disparates. Les paroles et les arrangements musicaux sont conçus comme un tout et l'utilisation d'un même groupe instrumental lui donne une unité de ton.

Dans les années 1970, lorsqu'on pouvait encore entendre les paroles à travers la musique des chansons populaires, les chanteurs jouaient un rôle important dans les mobilisations culturelles et politiques dans de nombreuses régions de langue minoritaire : Alan Stivell en Bretagne, Dafydd Iwan au pays de Galles et Lluis Llach en Catalogne. Un public catalan va encore se balancer de droite à gauche et chanter avec lui cette chanson qui parle d'un poteau en bois que l'on pousse d'un côté et de l'autre jusqu'à ce qu'il tombe. C'était un message codé dans les derniers temps du régime de Franco. Mais les temps changent et Lluis Llach a su changer sans abandonner ses racines. Ce cycle de chansons appartient à un âge où on a conscience de faire partie d'un pluralisme plus grand mais cette conscience s'exprime en catalan.

J'ai vu le spectacle qui avait été spécialement organisé pour les délégués de la Conférence de Barcelone où a eu lieu le lancement de la Déclaration universelle des Droits linguistiques. J'ai acheté le CD à l'aéroport et je l'écoute régulièrement. Ce concept pourrait peut-être se transmettre. Je me demande parfois si quelqu'un ne pourrait pas prendre les cultures et la musique des peuples qui entourent la mer d'Irlande et faire pareil avec, ou peut-être avec celles qui entourent la Baltique.

Ned Thomas, Président du Comité d'État membre du Bureau du Royaume-Uni

Le point sur les **Programmes européens**

Le Programme de Visites d'Etude dans des Communautés minoritaires :

Le programme consiste en une serie de visites d'étude organisees dans des communautes de langue moins repandue à travers l'UE auxquelles des acteurs engages dans la promotion et la pratique des langues minoritaires participent chaque annee. Cette annee, des visites thematiques auront lieu dans les communautes suivantes : Catalogne, pays de Galles, Nordschleswig au Danemark, Galice, communaute grecque dans les Pouilles en Italie et communaute basque en France.

Des formulaires de candidature peuvent être obtenus en s'adressant au Bureau europeen pour les langues moins repandues, 10, Sraid Haiste Iocht, IRL - Baile Atha Cliath 2. Date limite de reception des demandes : 30 juin 1998.

Ligne budgétaire B3-1006 pour les Langues régionales ou minoritaires

Objectifs : Encourager les initiatives dans les domaines de l'education, de la culture et de l'information ; améliorer et promouvoir l'enseignement des langues regionales et minoritaires de l'école maternelle à l'enseignement pour adultes ; sauvegarder et promouvoir les langues et cultures régionales ou minoritaires ; stimuler les échanges entre elles et diffuser leur expérience à travers l'Europe.

Prochaine date limite : 1er décembre

Contacter : Caroline Loup, DGXXII-Education, Formation et Jeunesse, Commission des Communautes europeennes, 5ème rue Belliard, B-1049 Bruxelles. Tél. : +32 2 2995655

Fondation culturelle européenne

Objectifs : Soutenir des projets axes sur les dimensions educatives et instructives de la culture dans un certain nombre de domaines.

Prochaine date limite : 15 septembre

Contacter : ECF, Jan Van Govendake 5, NL-1075 HN Amsterdam. Tél. : +31 20 6750222

Raphael

Objectif : Encourager le developpement du patrimoine culturel europeen.

Prochaine date limite : 10 septembre 1998

Contacter : M. A. Bouratsis, DG X D. 4, Rue de la Loi 102, B61040 Bruxelles. Tél. : +32 2 2999244

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L'objectif du Bureau europeen pour les langues moins répandues est de sauvegarder et de promouvoir les langues autochtones moins répandues de l'Union européenne ainsi que les cultures qu'elles reflètent. Le Bureau est un organisme indépendant enregistré en Irlande en société à responsabilité limitée sans capital actions et en AI en Belgique. Il travaille en collaboration étroite avec la Commission européenne et le Parlement européen ainsi qu'avec des institutions des Etats membres, le Conseil de l'Europe, l'ONU, l'UNESCO et d'autres organismes. Le Bureau est finance par des subventions provenant de la Commission européenne, du gouvernement irlandais, du gouvernement luxembourgeois, du gouvernement provincial de la Frise et de la communauté germanophone de Belgique. Des locaux sont grâcieusement mis à la disposition du Centre d'Information de Bruxelles par la Communauté française de Belgique.

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contact bulletin

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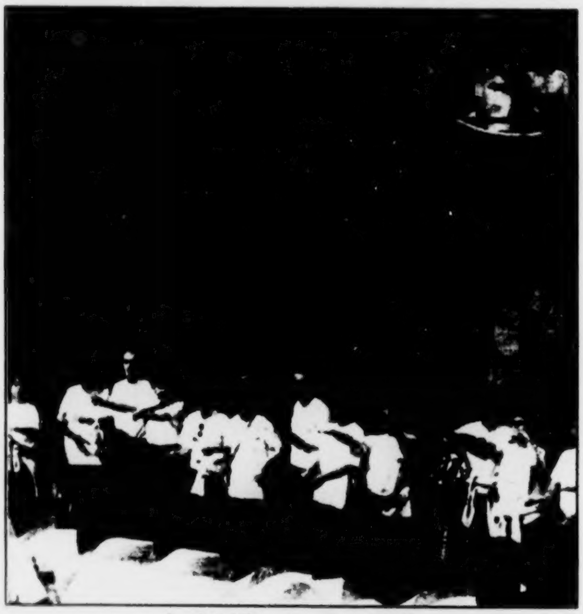
UK to sign Charter



Opening of Simmerbarren - see page 9

After several years of prevarication and a decision not to sign the Charter on the part of the last Conservative government, it was indeed good news to hear the announcement that the new UK government would be signing the Council of Europe's Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

In response to a parliamentary question, Derek Fatchett, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office declared that the government readily subscribed to the "general principles of recognition and support for indigenous minority languages and removal of discrimination against them."

The government's decision to sign the Charter was also announced by the Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies at the 'European Conference on Community Language Planning' held in Wales last summer. The conference which was attended by the President and the Secretary General of EBLUL brought together top European experts in language planning to discuss practical ways of promoting community use of lesser used languages. The three day gathering was arranged as a participative workshop with the aim of agreeing a framework for a package of guidelines to assist in the work of strengthening minority languages in communities throughout Europe.

The Welsh language in Wales will be specified under Part III of the Charter, as will the Gaelic language in Scotland, once the necessary procedural arrangements are in place. The Government meets the minimum requirement in respect of the Welsh language in Wales, but in Scotland a provision needs to be made for the use of Gaelic in the courts before Gaelic can be specified under Part III of the Charter. It is the government's intention to draw up specific measures later this year for the use of Gaelic in defined circumstances in civil proceedings in areas of Scotland where Gaelic speakers form a substantial proportion of the population.

With regard to the other minority languages spoken within the UK, and represented on the UK Committee of EBLUL, the House of Commons announcement stated that it was the government's intention to "specify the Irish language in Northern Ireland at an early date" under Part III of the Charter, that Part II would apply to the Scots language and that the government would be "considering which, if any, other languages should be bound by the general principles in Part II and might be specified under Part III in due course."

The UK Committee of EBLUL, as well as the Wales, Scotland, Cornwall and Northern Ireland Committees, are in contact with the various Offices of the UK government regarding this announcement, and is eager to see Part II of the

Charter being applied to all languages represented on the UK Committee. Hitherto no reference has been made to Cornish, and although the government's announcement regarding the Scots language was not geographically specific to Scotland, the UK and Northern Ireland Committees of EBLUL wish to see particular mention made to the Scots language in Ulster, or to Ulster Scots. With regard to Irish, the Committees are waiting for details of the timetable involved before provision for this language can be made under Part III. The Wales Committee wishes to see the government apply the most imaginative and forward looking paragraphs in the case of the Welsh language, rather than the minimum necessary for ratification. EBLUL now has a fundamental role in ensuring that the provision for all the minority languages of the UK under the Charter is constantly reviewed and that the signing and the first instrument of ratification are indeed regarded as the first steps in a process of continual positive developments in favour of the languages, to which the Charter renders itself so easily.

The Charter has been translated into Welsh and copies are available from the Wales Committees of EBLUL - Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Mercator, University of Wales, Aberystwyth SY23 3AS, Wales (UK) telephone: +44 1970 622 533 fax: +44 1970 622 190
e-mail: esj@aber.ac.uk

Elin Haf Gruffyd Jones

Ulster Scots – The European Charter/Belfast agreement

Subsequent to the UK's recent announcement on the Charter the Scottish office announced its intention to ratify in the near future in respect of Scottish Gaelic and Scots. The Ulster-Scots language movement is particularly pleased that following ratification in Scotland with Scots Gaelic and Scots an announcement is intended to be given in the near future to ratify on behalf of both Irish Gaelic and Ulster-Scots in Northern Ireland.

Clearly the levels of development and status of each of the two lesser used languages in Northern Ireland are different as are their needs. The recent Good Friday Peace Agreement provided for a new opportunity for mutual support and parallel development for Irish and Ulster-Scots in Northern Ireland representing a healthy break with the past when it said,

"All participants recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland the Irish language, Ulster- Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland".

"All participants recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland the Irish language, Ulster- Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland".

The depoliticisation of both Irish and Ulster-Scots can only progress within a European context which sets out norms of treatment for minority and regional languages. It is hoped that this will develop a spirit of mutual support and respect rather than competition between the two language groups for meagre resources. The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages has a continuing role to play in this work and its support to date is recognised by the Ulster-Scots language community to be very helpful and important.

The Ulster-Scots language movement is currently reviewing its strategy. It intends to focus on building European relationships with regional or minority languages with similar problems particularly that of belonging to the same language family of the official or dominant national language. Other communities which share this problem are Scots in Scotland, Frisian in Holland and Low Saxon in North Germany.
The local development strategy of Ulster-Scots will tie in with the expected ratification of the Charter. The main areas of focus will be status building, accommodation within the education system (the recent publication of the first grammar book for Ulster-Scots will facilitate this), encouraging creative writing and literary skills in what is mostly a spoken tongue today and of course encouraging and building on the current revival of interest in the Ulster-Scots literary tradition.

John McIntyre

The Charter and the Belfast Agreement: Implications for Irish in Northern Ireland

The section of the Belfast Agreement which deals with the Irish language cannot be understood without reference to the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. A close reading of the text of the two documents shows how much the Agreement depended on both the wording and spirit of the Charter.

Paragraph 3, for example, adapted "respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages" to the Northern Ireland context, as well as adopting wholesale the phrase "cultural wealth". The first three sub–paragraphs of Paragraph 4 of the Agreement, which relate to general principles rather than specific measures, are based closely on the wording of the Charter: "the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages ..."; "the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life"; "... eliminate ... any unjustified ... restriction ... intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of a regional or minority language" (Charter, Articles 7:3; 7:1a; 7:1c; 7:1d; 7:2.).

The next four sub–paragraphs refer to three specific areas of action, consultation, education and broadcasting. If they have anything in common, it is in preparing the ground for the UK government to sign the Charter in relation to the Irish language.

Consultation

The sub–paragraph of the Agreement relating to consultation is an enlightened interpretation of Article 7:4 of the Charter, which speaks of the need to "... take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages". A section responsible for linguistic diversity is to be set up within the Northern Ireland Civil Service. This may be a response to a further recommendation in Article 7:4 of the Charter that bodies be set up "for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages".

Education

The sub–paragraph relating to education is also significant. There had already been a tendency to link Irish–medium and integrated education, although rarely to the benefit of the Irish–medium sector. The major advance to emerge from the Agreement is that there is now a statutory requirement on the Department of Education for Northern Ireland (DENI) to "encourage and facilitate" Irish–medium education, and a benchmark has been established to measure the Department's commitment. The implications here are quite significant. DENI is now likely to fund a development council for the sector, and could establish a development fund to facilitate the founding of new Irish–medium schools. There are however, two disadvantages for Irish–medium education in linking the two sectors. The integrated sector is already firmly established, with over thirty grant–aided schools, while the Irish language sector has less than half that. Unlike Irish–medium schools, integrated schools can also avail of a procedure through which existing schools can transfer to the integrated sector.

Broadcasting

Two sub–paragraphs relate to broadcasting. The first, a commitment to more widespread access to Teilifís na Gaeilge (Irish–language TV) within Northern Ireland is essentially meaningless. That commitment had already been made in 1996, and was part of an agreed package between the British and Irish governments to facilitate reciprocal broadcasting of all television stations throughout the island of Ireland. However, the second sub–paragraph represents an important new development. For the first time ever there is a commitment to provide or seek finance for Irish–language television and film.

The final sub–paragraph, taken in conjunction with the introduction to Paragraph 4, is rather ambivalent and contains a number of let–out clauses and some phrases which are difficult to interpret. It is not clear, for example, what is meant by 'the community'. One thing is, however, clear. The commitments made here are made by the British Government, and only the British government. No mechanism has been identified for transferring the responsibility for the Irish language to the new Assembly.

Since the Agreement was signed, the British Government has made a commitment to sign Part III of the Charter with regard to Irish. This involves a commitment to the conditions of 35 paragraphs or sub–paragraphs in that section. A leaked internal document has indicated that by the end of 1998 only 20 – 25 of these could be signed. The Agreement will enable a number of other paragraphs to be signed, leaving some conditions still to be fulfilled. It may be that the government wishes to avoid delay by implementing whatever new measures are necessary in the period between the elections and power being devolved to the new Assembly.

This itself could be linked to another factor. The Irish language is a politically sensitive issue in Northern Ireland. In the negotiations leading up to the Agreement, the case for Irish was promoted only by the nationalist parties in Northern Ireland and the government of the Republic of Ireland. It is known that the final compromise on the language was among the very last issues to be agreed, and faced strong resistance from the unionist parties. The British government may have feared that the Assembly would have been unable to implement this part of the Agreement, or to deliver the further measures needed to sign the Charter. The Agreement represents a significant step forward for the Irish language community in Northern Ireland. Although we still face enormous problems, these are now much better problems than those we faced before. However, aside from the specific measures in the Agreement, it is impossible at this point to predict future developments with any precision. We do not know, for example, what further measures will emerge through the signing of the Charter. We do not know if these will be interpreted in a minimalist, literal and hostile way, or if their dry, legalistic wording will be interpreted in the light of the magnanimous ethos which underlies the Charter. We do not know if the new measures will be delivered through support structures or individual – or community – legislative rights. We have no idea of the scale of support which will be made available to the language and we do not know how the language community will adapt to the new circumstances.

One of the greatest challenges facing us is how the language will fare within the new political structures. Will it continue to reflect, and possibly reinforce, political and religious divisions? Will nationalist politicians continue to give the language their – largely symbolic – support, and will unionist politicians continue to oppose it with the same level of intensity? Will normalisation make it a much less contentious issue?

One danger is that Irish and Ulster Scots, which have historically been shared by all sections of the community, nationalists and unionists, Catholics and Protestants, will be used by politicians as linguistic and cultural markers reflecting the main political divisions of our society. Irish is already identified to an unwarrantable extent with the Catholic/nationalist tradition. There is some evidence that a number of unionist politicians intend to promote Ulster Scots as a Protestant/unionist alternative. This development, if it is allowed to continue, could do a great deal of damage.

Aodán Mac Póilin, Director, ULTACH Trust

Poignant Report on the regional languages and cultures of France delivered to Jospin

On 29 October 1997, the new Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, appointed by the President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac subsequent to the Socialist Party's victory in the June general elections, requested that Ms Nicole Péry, an MP in the Pyrénées Atlantique department (Basque country) draw up a report on regional languages and cultures in France by 30 April 1998. The opinion of the Council of State of 24 September 1996, which was not publicised until January 1997, that the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages was incompatible with the French Constitution inspired keen reactions, both on the part of minority language movements and numerous elected representatives in the regions concerned. What made the reactions all the more keen was the fact that the Council of State was basing its judgement on the amendment to Article 2 of the Constitution introduced in June 1992, according to which "the language of the Republic is French" at the very time when the Council of Europe was in the process of adopting the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The socialist government at the time had, however, solemnly declared that this amendment did not pose a threat to regional languages and cultures. Numerous protest demonstrations were organised in France, Brittany, the Basque Country, Corsica and the Occitan region on the occasion of the first European Language Day on 12 April 1997.

A new issue thus emerged in the contentious debate between oppressed languages and cultures in France and the Jacobin state. The task entrusted to Nicole Péry therefore inspired real interest, since it was the first time that a Prime Minister of the French Republic had requested a report on regional cultures and languages. It did not, however, eliminate the scepticism which had developed as a result of a string of unfulfilled political promises and the state's clear opposition to acknowledging diversity in cultures and languages. After Nicole Péry's appointment to government at the end of March 1998, Lionel Jospin appealed to Bernard Poignant, the mayor of Kemper in Brittany to continue with the report and put forward proposals. Bernard Poignant's Jacobin reputation, in spite of recent campaigns by the local authorities of Kemper to promote the Breton language, inspired a certain reticence, which was intensified by interviews conducted in consultation with a large number of organisations working to defend languages, trade unions and well- known figures.

A European choice

Bernard Poignant's report was presented to the Prime Minister on 1 July 1998, as planned. To general satisfaction, it was publicised immediately, in response to enthusiastic requests by all the movements concerned and, in particular, the eighth Interregional Cultural Gathering held at the end of June in Perpignan (North Catalonia) under the aegis of the local authorities.

The reactions inspired in the different territories in which regional or minority languages exist were varied, but generally fairly positive. The movements' main demands were dealt with in a perfectly reasonable manner, one of the main ones, as is highlighted in the report, being the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. **"As we reach the end of the 20th century,"** states Bernard Poignant, **"France must prepare for the signing and ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages drafted by the Council of Europe."** He suggests the establishment of an expert's report, a task assigned to a constitutionalist, Guy Carcassonne, by the Prime Minister, to select the minimum 35 points required out of 94 to ratify the Charter, in accordance with French constitutional law. If required, he suggests modifying the Constitution, which is also one of the basic demands of cultural movements, aiming to make France acknowledge the reality of its linguistic and cultural diversity.

These proposals are explained in the report by different choices: the European choice, because "the French cultural exception" must not imply the exclusion of the country's linguistic and cultural diversity; the "Girondist choice", in favour of continuing the decentralisation trend already underway, given the "paralysing" effect of the concentration of the state; the French– speaking choice, since France cannot defend French internationally in the name of diversity which is being contested nationally; the choice of multilingualism, which is enriching for the country and its population.

Twelve languages or language categories recorded

Initially Bernard Poignant defined the languages concerned as being "cultural languages of the Republic other than French", namely: Mosel–Alsatian, whose written form is German; Basque spoken in part of the Pyrenees–Atlantiques department, an extension of the Basque area which has an official status in the Spanish state; Breton, in the western part of Brittany, towns in Haute Bretagne and Paris; Catalan in the Pyrenees–Orientales, supported by the Catalan government's campaigns in the south and by its official status in Spain; Corsican, formerly considered an Italian dialect, recognised due to the special status of the island; Creole languages, referred to for the first time as regional languages, as the most commonly–spoken native languages in the French overseas regions of Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion; Occitan in a large part of southern France, also spoken in a number of Alpine valleys in Italy and the Val d'Aran (Catalonia, Spain), where it has official status; Dutch, or Flemish, in the Nord department; Polynesian and Melanesian languages, namely Tahitian and the Kanak languages, which have special statuses linked to those of the territories; Oil languages, such as Picard, Gallo, Poitevin, Saintongeais, Norman, Morvandiau, Champenois, etc. are listed as having become regional forms of French; Franco–Provençal or Savoyard, which is similar to the Oil languages.

Acknowledgement of regional languages but primacy of French

After reviewing the precarious situation of these languages, Bernard Poignant, without wishing to go into detail but merely to present the main lines, puts forward a number of concrete proposals on the basis of a dozen or so general principles.

These principles include the primacy of the French language, stated as being the only official language. In addition, however, "*the French Republic most acknowledge the existence on its territory of regional languages and cultures which are granted rights in accordance with the laws and regulations. The latter do not pose any threat to national identity*," he adds. Amongst the other principles is the assertion that learning a regional language is down to the choice of parents and pupils and is not an obligation, in contrast to French, which must be mastered by everyone. The state must also accept pluralism in teaching methods, which amounts to acknowledging different approaches, ranging from simple initiation to totally bilingual education and going as far as the total immersion system used in schools attached to Associations. The latter are facing serious difficulties and have been involved in continual struggles for around 30 years to use methods which are common practice in other countries. Increased decentralisation towards the regions is also recommended as far as regional languages and cultures are concerned.

Consolidating developments

The concrete proposals are concerned essentially with the provision of the means to allow projects to be implemented: forward–looking organisation in the recruitment of teachers, increasing the importance of regional languages in competitions to recruit bilingual teachers in primary schools and providing attached to associations schools with a public status respecting their methods, as the only way of allowing them to develop.

As far as cultural activities are concerned, the idea of regional language quotas for public television and radio stations has been put forward. This is a valuable proposal if these quotas prove significant. The idea of developing local television stations, if the regions are given the means to do so, could lead to the development of stations which broadcast entirely or partially in regional languages.

There are also plans to set up centres for meetings and discussion, both on state level, such as the National Council for Regional Languages and Cultures in France, and on the level of *regions, with organisations responsible for dealing with issues of language and culture*. The so– called "plan contracts" between the state and the regions could provide a framework for negotiation, with the state's focus being "*regional languages and cultures.*"

According to the President of the Basque Academy, Jean Haritschelhar, "*this report is worthy of consideration. It deserves much more than blind acceptance or systematic criticism. It is important (...) to draw attention to developments as well as hesitations and reticence.*" We are still a long way from the type of acknowledgement given to cultural diversity by the most developed countries in Europe. But contempt is not completely a thing of the past in France and there are still many examples of top–ranking civil servants who are categorically opposed to the use of regional languages in different regions and communities. They merely reflect the ideology of the state. The precarious position of regional languages and cultures in the media and education is obvious. We need Lionel Jospin to implement proposals which would place France in a slightly more creditable position in terms of the respect due to its regional languages and cultures as regards human rights. This report aims to encourage him strongly to do so.

Tangi Louarn
Vice President of the Cultural Council of Brittany

Brezoneger ma'z on

Breton-Speaker that I am

I have no other haven
than the language of my being.
Breton is my country.

I have no other possession to defend
than this lake of boiling mead,
this uncivilised broth
that nourishes me outside and in.
Breton is my country.

I have no other flag to follow
than these words of robust hemp
rewoven from my saliva,
which bares my nakedness to the eye.
Breton is my country.

All the rest is geography.

(*The Black stone*, 1974)

Kop football ar bed war Eurosport Breizh

World Cup football seemed to dominate TV screens everywhere in the world at the beginning of the summer. In Brittany, the event was all the more exceptional since the 64 matches and the opening ceremony were broadcast in Breton on the satellite and cable channel Eurosport (210 million viewers worldwide). Patrick le Lay (Chairman of TF1 and Eurosport France) and Charles Biétry (Chairman of Eurosport International), two Bretons, are at the root of this experimental project. They set up a team of 6 commentators, two for each match in order to provide Breton-language coverage of the whole event. In total, 130 hours of programmes in Breton were broadcast during the World Cup, compared to the 50 hours broadcast annually by the regional public service television. Trojan preparatory work needed to be carried out to gather the appropriate necessary documentation, decide on the style of the commentary and the terminology to use. Pal (goal), digoll (free kick), tenn-korn (corner) are some of the words used daily which will have become familiar to viewers during this World Cup. The sixteenth language on Eurosport, Breton was the first minority language to be broadcast by the channel to date. According to Patrick le Lay, this experience is the first step towards a regional channel. He intends to announce something along these lines in the coming months. On a wider scale, Eurosport has plans to broadcast in other regional languages, such as Catalan or Basque. A parallel can be drawn between the World Cup experiment and the presentation to the public of a plan for a Breton channel in July by the Cultural Council of Brittany (see *TV Breizh meets the public* above).

The background to the decline of the Breton language goes back to the war years. On the eve of the first world war, it is estimated that 1,5 million people spoke Breton. 240,000 Bretons died during this war, one out of 4 Bretons who took part in this war. In World War II most Bretons fought with the Resistance yet a tiny group misguidedly worked with the Germans assuming the Germans would help them in gaining some independence. They were betrayed in this but the post-war retribution was terrible. Priests, poets, writers, teachers of Breton and lawyers were rounded up, many were executed, others put into detention near Rennes. Many of them had been members of the Resistance who were not arrested for collaboration but for the holding of Breton ideals.

This led , unsurprisingly, to Breton falling to its lowest ebb and is reflected in the fear of some old people to speak Breton in public even today. This climate of fear is also reflected in the failure of the over 60 age group to transmit their language to the younger generations coupled with an education policy deliberately aimed at suppressing the Breton language.

However today's people are becoming more confident about using Breton. An opinion poll from last year carried out by the Finistère daily, le *Télégramme*, showed that 88% of the Breton people wanted to save and revive Breton and 97% of those in the 15-19 age group wanted to see it in all the schools. Hence, there is good support for the language, which is also revealed by the sharp increase in the number of people attending Breton courses. The number of radio stations broadcasting in Breton is currently increasing, and this can be an important factor in supporting a scattered population of speakers. This coupled with the advent of a Breton TV channel and public opinion turning into political support may mark the turning point in the revival of the language.

D.Hicks and Y.Rivallain

Three New Bilingual Radio Stations for Austria

In October last three private radio stations came on air in the Austrian federal states of Carinthia and Burgenland. In Carinthia, Radio AGORA and Radio Korotan will broadcast alternatively in Slovene while in Burgenland Radio MORA will integrate Croatian, Hungarian and Romany into their schedules (1.) This will result in higher output and more diversity in radio programmes in minority languages. It has been almost ten years since Radio AGORA lodged a formal complaint with the European Human Rights Commission in Strasbourg for private sector to be able to offer programmes in minority languages, following the collapse of State monopoly of the radio services. Coming a little later than in other European countries a new chapter in the history of radio has been opened in Austria.

In European countries the State has been monopolising radio from the very beginning; public service radio "has assumed a double role, serving as the political public sphere of the national state, and as a focus for national cultural identification" (2). This definition places radio under the firm grip of the State and has led in most European countries to minority languages being given scant consideration, and if ever, only in small niche programming. Slovene-language programmes were first broadcast in Austria in 1946, and in Croatian and Hungarian in the late 1970s. The position of minority languages on state controlled radio has become even more marginalised when programme choices were extended and divided according to different styles. While the majority language channels cater for specific target groups, minority languages remain isolated and strictly limited to one of them(3). For years the amount of time allocated to the Slovene language on State run radio averages 50 minutes per day.

It was from this unsatisfactory standpoint that AGORA began to broadcast bilingual programmes for Carinthia from Italy. Efforts to obtain frequency allocation in Austria were fruitless due to the existing radio monopoly in that country. A formal complaint was therefore brought by AGORA to the Human Rights Commission based on Article 10 of the European Human Rights Convention guaranteeing citizens the right of access to information. The complaint was one of a series of complaints lodged against the monopolising of radio in Austria and in 1993 the court decided that the broadcasting laws in Austria would have to be revised. In its judgment, the Court specifically pointed out "that the interests and needs of a specific public and the duties which arise out of legal instruments of international law" had to be taken into account"(4).

All obligations on the State, with regard to ethnic groups living on the State's territory, such as are outlined in the Council of Europe's Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, are included here. Following the first round of licence allocations in 1994 non-commercial bodies such as Radio AGORA were not considered and following complaints the law governing private radio in Austria was amended. During the reallocation of frequencies in 1997 applications from those bodies proposing the setting up of radio stations with programmes in minority languages were considered. These stations came on air in Autumn 1998.

The Austrian Radio Commission allocated to Radio Agora-Korotan a frequency covering those areas inhabited by the Slovene ethnic group on condition that that no less than half of talk programmes had to be in Slovene. Funding is to be provided by the federal chancellery for the setting up of these two stations and also for Radio MORA in Burgenland from the budgetary reserve set aside for ethnic groups.
Radio Korotan defines itself as a commercial radio project seeking funding from advertising revenue; financial allocations from the federal chancellery earmarked for ethnic groups should be used to cover the extra costs involved in providing bilingual broadcasting. Radio Mora and Radio AGORA describe themselves as non-commercial community radio and aim to include in their broadcasting time community initiatives in the fields of culture, education and social life. Children and young people will be able to play an active part in radio through media workshops organised in schools. AGORA and MORA are together learning from the experiences already encountered by those involved in broadcasting in other European countries, where non- commercial community radio served as a forum for minority languages. In their view special emphasis must be placed on the promotion of multilingual communities. Furthermore, one must also strive to work out ways in which the two languages can be integrated into majority or minority language programmes. The challenge here is to develop some sort of formula which will attract those who speak both languages. At the same time a guarantee must be given to those who are not bilingual - and that means a large percentage of German speakers - that they also will be able to follow the programmes and will be motivated (at least passively) to master the minority language. In this way

1 In Austria, ethnic communities recognised as such are Slovenes, Croates, Hungarians, Slovaques, Roma and Sinti.

2 David Morley, Kevin Robins : *Spaces of identity. Global media, electronic landscapes and cultural boundaries*, London, New-York, 1996, p. 10.

3 Brigitte Busch, *Der virtuelle Dorfplatz. Minderheitenmedien, Globalisierung und kulturelle Identitat*, Klagenfurt, 1998.

4 **European Court of Human Rights.** *- Case of Informationsverein Lentia and others v. Austria, judgement 25.11.1993,* § 2, Art. 38.-

the division between different media systems must be overcome and bi- or multilingualism will become an everyday integral part of broadcasting.

Undoubtedly the extent of a minority language's presence in the media largely affects as much the language's place in society, especially language prestige, as it does the individual linguistic competence of the single minority language speaker. Sociolinguistic studies in Carinthia have referred on numerous occasions to frequent code-switching from Slovene to German and interference in Slovene language-flow especially when the subject matter is technical or related to environmental issues or world politics. These are topics which are rarely present in Slovene language programmes in Carinthia. With the new radio stations comes the opportunity to provide wider themes and programmes for children and young people.

Dr. Brigitte Busch.

Bilingual Kindergartens in Austria

F. Frischenlager (MEP) A. Wakounig (Ehota Lista) and A. Riemersma (EBLUL) on a visit to a Slovene-speaking kindergarten

'Slovenes in Austria bring the political question of Kindergartens to the European fore'. That was the headline of one Austrian newspaper on June 9 last, following the visit of Joachim Fronia (European Commission, DG XXII) and Friedhelm Frischenschlager (MEP for Austria) to the Slovene speaking community in Carinthia (Austria).

This community of about 35,000 Slovene speakers situated near the AustrianSlovene border in the southern part of the country has been involved in several new initiatives during the past decade. One such iniative has been in the field of preschool education: in the village of Bleiburg/Pliberk a bilingual Kindergarten has been set up by local authorities, and receives public funding as a result. Both the Slovene and German languages are used every day in playing and reading activities, and in teaching traditional and modern rhymes and songs. Children from Slovene speaking families come together with those from German speaking backgrounds and parents and grandparents become involved in activities with the children. The teachers involved are trained by the Kindergartenseminar in Klagenfurt/Celovec.

This small scale project is a good example of language teaching combined with the preservation and transfer of the cultural heritage of the linguistic realm. In the meantime children are more prepared to communicate with both German speakers in Austria and their neighbours on the other side of the mountains in Slovenia.

Through small scale projects like this one, the Slovene community in Austria illustrates that an integrated Europe starts with good neighbourhood practices. Their children at least are ready to be able to communicate with the next generation Slovenia, on the threshhold of becoming a new EU member.

According to the Burgenland state's law on preschool education (*Kindergartengesetz*) bilingual Kindergartens serving the Hungarian and Croatian minorities are set up by the local authorities and partly funded by the local community, by the state of Burgenland and by the central state. However, in the federal state of Carinthia (Kärnten) there is to date no law on pre-school education. Establishing and funding a kindergarten is left up to the local community. In several cases the local authorities, for political reasons, have refused to establish a bilingual Kindergarten or to subvent one. In such cases, funding is therefore lacking at both local and central level. Consequently in some local communities where parents express an interest in opening a bilingual Kindergarten provisions are not adequate. In other cases, where a bilingual Kindergarten has been founded on private initiative, parents have to pay twice as much for their child to attend as other parents and, occasionally, for only half the time! Last year for example, in the village of Ferlach/Borovlje parents opened a bilingual Kindergarten as a private enterprise. Here they had to invest more than 1,200,000 Schilling in construction costs, whilst the running costs amounted to 1,000,000 Schilling annualy. With the approval of the local authorities, the central state would have been able to allocate about 300,000 Schilling for this investment annualy and the rest would have been paid for by the State of Carinthia! Fortunately, the European Commission has sponsored the kindergarten for one more year (300,000 ATS). However, following the suspension of the European Parliament's minority language buget line it is not expected that the EU will continue paying this subvention. Austria signed the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in 1992 and has recently expressed its intention to ratify it in due course. One hopes that the Austrian government in cooperation with the states of Burgenland and Carinthia will create a legal basis for bilingual preschool education in accordance with par. 8.1 (a) (ii) or (iii) (adequate provisions for preschool education) and 8.h (teacher training) of the Charter.

Alexander Riemersa

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Simmerbarren 500

The young Catalan shuffled his notes. Then he looked up at the woman behind the bakery counter. Again his eyes lowered as he scanned the papers. He pushed the boy next to him: 'Go on, go on, ask her!'. The reply could not have been more predictable: 'No, no, you ask her'. Some moments later, he managed to produce a string of uncertain sounds: '*Hawwe jo foar my in bôle?*' (Could I have a loaf of bread please?). How difficult can it be to learn a little of a language in just one morning!

One of many scenes during the **'Frysk is fun'** workshop which took place during the Simmerbarren 500 youth conference in Fryslân (Netherlands). From 25 July to 1 August last, over 300 participants and organisers were located in four villages, and in each of them the focus was on a different aspect of the main theme of the week: '**employment**'.

In the end, all the participants left the bakery with a loaf of bread and went back to base. But one young German–speaking Rumanian suddenly hesitated as something struck him. He pondered for a few seconds and then, turning to the shop keeper, cautiously articulated: 'Oant sjen!' (see you).

The week began with the arrival of participants in Ljouwert, the capital of Fryslân, on 25 July last from where they continued on to their respective locations. The next day, they all assembled again in the small village of Jorwert, symbolising the heart of Fryslân and also how rural Fryslân has changed this century. Jorwert has lost almost all of its small businesses and, except for a few farmers, its population depends for its income on nearby Ljouwert. The Simmerbarren participants brightened up the place as they unfolded their yellow umbrellas, displaying the Simmerbarren logo: a rotating sun, radiating beams of light.

In each of the four Simmerbarren locations, participants could choose from a variety of workshops, lectures and excursions. Many of them were involved in developing a plan for their host location, and while doing so, encountered aspects all too well known to them at home: high unemployment, brain drain and the conflicts between commerce and culture/environment.

Others were more interested in self–development, playing simulation games to find out where they stood in life. One quote from that session summarises the thoughts and feelings of many young people: "you need to work to live, but also to live to work".

Relations between employment and culture, environment and government policies were also explored. A good example of this connection was given by Mr Dafydd Gruffydd, Language Officer in Ynys Môn in Northern Wales. His presentation depicted Wales' impressive nature and flourishing cultural life, as well as attempts to promote the use of Welsh in business. He explained how research had shown that customers feel more comfortable when they can discuss business matters in Welsh as it helped to increase confidence and affinity with the company.

Of particulare interest were the encounters between young Europeans and their hosts during excursions. "I don't like cows", said one Slovene girl during a visit to a school for animal husbandry, "I live in a city and, to me, milk comes out of a bottle". Still, this excursion was an inevitable part of a youth conference in a region "which counts more cows than people", as the mayor of one of the hosting municipalities put it.

For the duration of the whole event, participants and the local population were able to use their own currency: ***Simmerbarren euro's*** could be spent in many local shops and restaurants at a rate of two guilders to one euro. All this and much more was covered in the daily newspaper ***Sinnestriel***. A full team of editors and correspondents worked around the clock to get the daily news published before midday the following day! Even the regular bus services became involved, as bus drivers were used to take films and articles to Ljouwert, where one of the editors was awaiting them at the bus station.

The last day of the conference brought all participants together for one last time, in the northernmost city of Fryslân, Dokkum. Here many music groups performed and some results of workshops were presented. Over all, feelings amongst participants and organisers were very, very positive indeed. One of the biggest ethnic minority youth conferences in Europe ever had produced a flood of results and attracted much attention from the international media. It was not always easy to deal with so much cultural diversity, but as the week went on understanding improved and many friendships were born. Or as the Simmerbarren song, specially released on CD and still on sale, says: "*let us get together, we will find a way*".

In the end, all the participants left the bakery with a loaf of bread and went back to base. But one young German–speaking Rumanian suddenly hesitated as something struck him. He pondered for a few seconds and then, turning to the shop keeper, cautiously articulated: '*Oant sjen!*' (see you).

Klaas Johan

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A Law for the Italian Minorities ... at last?

Article 6 of the Italian Constitution, written more than 50 years ago, foresees special safeguard measures for the linguistic minorities in Italy. Yet for 50 years these minorities have waited in vain for the constitutionally granted enactment. The right moment might now have come now with the government. A law for the safeguard of Italian historical linguistic minorities could pass the Parliament before the end of 1998.

On 17 June last the Chamber of Deputies approved a law tabled by M.P. Domenico Maselli by a large majority of 205 votes (67 deputies voted against it; 58 abstained). "The law has practically no enemies now and should easily pass through the Senate", was the optimistic view of prof.Domenico Morelli, President of CONFEMILI, the Italian Member State Committee of EBLUL. Prof.Morelli, an Albanian from Calabria, was confident that the definitive approval should take place in autumn and that "the law is the best one that we can have".

The new act gives the responsibility for the delimitation of the territory where minorities live to the Provincial Councils. It foresees the possibility to use the mother tongue in administrative bodies, and the introduction of minority language kindergartens and schools. It also provides for media coverage and encourages the use of names and toponyms in the minority languages. The total budget of the new law for 1999 is 20.5 billion Italian Lire (about 10 million and a half ECU).

Not all of the bills 20 articles will pass without objection . The implementation of the new law, for example, is linked to a barrier: at least 15% of the citizens living in a community must request the special safeguard. Under this limit lesser used languages will not be protected, unless a different decision is taken by one third of the community council. This condition forces any recognition of historic minorities to be dependant on the goodwill of listed Italian majorities. Moreover, the Roma have not been included in the twelve minorities listed. But in spite of some objections, the linguistic minorities in Italy believe that the passing of the law will represent a major breakthrough in the survival and promotion of their languages and cultures.

Ivana Suhadolc

Corsicans meet on the Åland Islands

A recent seminar on insular regions brought together for the first time in many years different groups from the island of Corsica who on a political level had lost contact with each other. The conference which was organised by the Flensburg based European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI) took place on the Åland Islands, an insular region belonging to Finland with 25,000 Swedish speakers.

One of the co-organiser, John Loughlin, Professor of European Politics at the University of Wales Cardiff, saw the Åland islands as having the advantage of peaceful surroundings and strong autonomous structures to facilitate such a seminar. According to him the standard of debate was very high and some breakthrough was made in bringing the different Corsican groups closer together. "The Corsicans were from the very start intrigued by the Åland Islands" according to Loughlin. "They were further impressed by the fact that the islands had their own seat on the Northern Council along with such places as the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Such was the content of debate that headlines were made in French and Corsican newspapers. A week following the end of the seminar follow-up interviews were published in the French national daily Le Figaro concentrating in the main on the autonomous political structures of the Åland islands and how Corsica could perhaps be modeled on same. It was also wryly observed how different France and Finland had developed to this day in spite of Finland basing its 1917 constitution on that of France.

One of the main ideas emanating from the seminar was the provision of similar structures in Corsica. Jean-Félix Aquaviva from the Corsican nationalist movement 'Corsica Viva' suggested how this could be brought about through round-table discussions between different parties in Corsica and the French government.

The idea for such a seminar was supported by Åland, Paris and Corsica. Farimah Daftary, political scientist at ECMI and seminar coordinator said "the list of participants was to be as broad as possible and aimed at attracting senior political figures from different Corsican parties. For this reason the title of the conference was made as neutral as possible: 'Insular Regions and European Integration: Corsica and the Åland Islands Compared'". One of these participants was former French Interior Minister and current President of the National Court of Accounting, Pierre Joxe.

The European Center for Minority Issues, which organised the conference, was established in 1996 and is based in Flensburg on the German-Danish border, an area with four linguistic minorities: Danish German, Frisian and Sinti and Sinti and Roma. Financed by the governments of Germany and Denmark and by the state of Schleswig Holstein, ECMI concentrates its activities in the three main domains of research, information and conflict management. Further information on ECMI and the conference is available from: http://www.ecmi.de

Brigitte Alfter, Flensborg Avis

Miniguide to the Lesser Used languages of the EU

This, the second edition of the Miniguide to the Lesser Used Languages of the European Union, [illegible] brief [illegible] descriptions of [illegible] different language communities spoken throughout the EU. It is not always easy to find an exact term for those languages which are spoken [illegible] 'minority' [illegible] languages by over 50 million EU citizens daily. They are the languages found in almost all EU member states [illegible] which they are not the official language of the State in which they are spoken; they have been spoken as autochthonous languages for thousands of years and form an integral part of Europe's common cultural and linguistic heritage.

The 1995 edition of the guide covered eleven member states; three more member states have joined the EU since and extra chapters have been added to this edition [illegible] languages of Austria, Finland and Sweden. The information has been provided in the main by the European Bureau [illegible] representative committees in 14 out of the 15 EU member states. Only basic information is provided as the publication's main aim is that of a guide to Europe's hidden linguistic heritage.

Miniguide to Lesser Used Languages in the EU – by Diarmaid Breathnach [illegible] language version: English/French. 120 pages. ISBN: 1870675 11 8

History of Galician literature

Fifty specialists of various academic backgrounds took part in the production of *A History of Galician literature*, a collective reference work published by AS-PG and A Nosa Terra. Published separately as volumes and fascicles during the past three years, this encyclopedia presents the most significant writers and works in Galician literature from the middle-age to the present. Much work and effort was put into writing this work in Galician, the result of which would not have been possible without the devotion of its authors, the valuable support of the European Commission and above all of the Galician people themselves.

This work has two aims: to allow everybody access to the literary heritage of Galicia; to update literary criticism and research work carried out in Galicia.

The work is divided into two equal parts: *An Anthology of Galician literature* in 51 volumes and *A History of Galician literature*, encompassing 50 fascicles grouped together in 5 volumes (of over 1,600 pages and 2000 illustrations). Each fascicle matches one volume of the anthology and offers general information on the writer and the historical and cultural context of the selected piece of work.

Besides its huge success among the general public, this encyclopedia is proving to be an essential reference tool for universities and cultural centres involved with Galician language and culture.

Select Bibliography on minority languages in the European Union

The Select Bibliography – published bilingually in English and French in a second edition in 1997 (1993[1]) – is an attempt at collecting basic references on 40 different autochthonous regional or minority languages of the European Union.

The choice of titles made by the author –Wolfgang Jenniges, Documentalist in the Brussels Information Centre of the EBLUL– is intended for use by the general public: it is not a specialized bibliography, but it aims at providing a current and reasonably comprehensive overview. Furthermore, mainly recent works have been selected: the majority of the titles were published in the last fifteen years.The approx. 2,000 bibliographical references are placed in 40 sections, one for each minority language, following a preliminary section which provides some 200 general titles. Each section groups the titles in thematic categories, such as general works, language use in administrative authorities and public services, justice, education, media, works on culture and history, economic and social life, transfrontier contacts.

The languages are presented in alphabetical order.

The publication can be ordered at the Brussels Information Centre at the price of 8 Ecu/400 Bef.

ISBN 90-7-4851-45-2For more information, please contact Christian Demeuré-Vallée at the BrusselsInformationCentre of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, tel: (+32-2) 218-25-90.

Study Visit Reports

Since 1983 over 90 visits to over 35 of the EU's lesser used language communities have been organized by the European Bureau on behalf of the European Commission. To date over 1,000 people have availed of the programme. The scheme, which is 100% funded by the European Commission, enables the study of educational, cultural, administrative and media structures relating to regional or minority languages and cultures in the community. The main aim of the study visit programme is to increase awareness of the European reality in the field of regional or minority language developments. The process of European integration must include cooperation between the minority language regions and these visits add greatly to improvements in contacts and exchanges of experiences throughout the Union.

Six to seven visits are organised each year and each group consists of ten to twelve participants from all of the EU's minority language areas. A participant in each study visit is nominated as group rapporteur whose function it is to compile a report based on debriefing meetings convened at the end of each day of the visit. These reports are then reproduced in the Annual Study Visit Report. Three of these reports are now available from the European Bureau covering the period 1994 to 1997. They include first hand information on linguistic minorities visited on the ground covering the general areas of education, media, social/cultural life and official and voluntary areas visited. Chapters on the following regions are included: Aroumanians and Arvinites in Greece, Ladins in Italy, the media in Catalonia, the Basque Country and Galicia, Alsace, Corsica, Ireland, Vallée d'Aoste – 94/95 Report; Slovenes in Italy, Danes in Germany, Northern Ireland, Catalans in Sardinia, Wales, Slovenes in Austria – 95/96 Report; Swedes in Finland, Scotland, Basque Country, Finns in Sweden, Catalans in France and the German speaking community in Denmark – 96/97 report. Published by the Bureau's Dublin Head Office these reports which add to the amount of high quality, selected and up- to-date information about minority languages throughout the Union, are available from Bureau offices at 8ECU each.

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Nouvelle loi pour les minorités italiennes

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La signature de la charte ou de toute convention de ce type implique un accord avec les principes qu'elle énonce et doit normalement aboutir à sa ratification

Pour plus de renseignements [illegible]

Signature de la Charte annoncée par le Royaume–Uni

Simmerbarren V. page 9

Après plusieurs années de tergiversations et un refus du gouvernement conservateur de signer la Charte pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires du Conseil de l'Europe, l'annonce de sa signature par le nouveau gouvernement du Royaume–Uni est une excellente nouvelle.

En réponse à une question parlementaire, Derek Fatchett, secrétaire d'État au ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commonwealth a déclaré que le gouvernement soutenait pleinement les «principes généraux de reconnaissance et de soutien aux langues minoritaires indigènes et la suppression des discriminations à leur encontre.»

La décision du gouvernement de signer la Charte a également été annoncée par le secrétaire d'État au pays de Galles, Ron Davies lors de la conférence européenne sur la planification linguistique dans le cadre d'une communauté qui s'est tenue au pays de Galles l'été dernier. La conférence, à laquelle ont participé le président et le secrétaire général du BELMR, a rassemblé les meilleurs experts en matière de planification linguistique en Europe pour discuter des méthodes concrètes disponibles pour promouvoir l'utilisation des langues moins répandues dans une communauté. Cette rencontre de trois jours a été organisée sur le modèle d'un atelier participatif Son objectif était de définir un cadre de travail afin d'élaborer une série de lignes directrices pour renforcer les langues minoritaires dans les communautés à travers l'Europe.

Le gallois aux pays de Galles sera retenu au titre de la partie III de la Charte, tout comme le gaélique d'Écosse, dès que les arrangements procéduraux nécessaires auront été mis en place. Si le gouvernement remplit déjà les conditions minimum en ce qui concerne le gallois au pays de Galles, pour l'Écosse, des dispositions en faveur de l'utilisation du gaélique auprès des tribunaux doivent être mises en place avant que la langue puisse être retenue au titre de la partie III de la Charte. Le gouvernement a l'intention de prendre des mesures spécifiques dans le courant de l'année en faveur de l'utilisation du gaélique, dans certaines circonstances, pour les actes civils, dans les régions d'Écosse où les locuteurs de gaélique représentent une part substantielle de la population.

En ce qui concerne les autres langues minoritaires parlées au Royaume–Uni et représentées au sein du Comité d'État membre du BELMR pour le Royaume–Uni, le communiqué de la Chambre des Communes déclare que le gouvernement a l'intention de «retenir l'irlandais en Irlande du Nord à brève échéance» au titre de la partie III de la Charte; la partie II s'appliquerait à la langue scots et le gouvernement «considérerait, le cas échéant, quelles autres langues pourraient bénéficier des principes généraux de la partie II et être retenues au titre de la partie III, le moment venu.»

Le Comité d'État membre du BELMR pour le Royaume–Uni, ainsi que les comités du pays de Galles, d'Écosse, de Cornouaille et d'Irlande du Nord sont en contact avec les différents services gouvernementaux au sujet de cette déclaration et souhaitent vivement que la partie II de la Charte soit appliquée à toutes les langues représentées par le Comité d'Etat membre du Royaume-Uni. Jusque ici, aucune référence au cornique n'a été faite; bien que la déclaration du gouvernement concernant la langue scots ne soit pas limitée à l'Ecosse sur le plan géographique, le comité du Royaume-Uni et le Comité d'Irlande du Nord du BELMR souhaitent que la langue scots en Ulster ou le scots d'Ulster soit mentionnés spécifiquement. En ce qui concerne l'irlandais, les comités attendent les détails du calendrier prévu pour la mise en place des mesures en faveur de la langue au titre de la partie III. Le comité gallois souhaite que le gouvernement applique au gallois les paragraphes les plus novateurs et tournés vers l'avenir et ne se contente pas de satisfaire au minimum requis pour une ratification. Le BELMR a désormais un rôle considérable à jouer pour veiller à ce que les dispositions prévues pour toutes les langues minoritaires du Royaume-Uni à travers la Charte soient évaluées constamment et que la signature et le premier instrument de ratification soient considérés comme les premières étapes d'un processus d'initiatives constructives en faveur de ces langues, conformément à l'esprit de la Charte.

La Charte a été traduite en gallois et des exemplaires peuvent être obtenus auprès du Secrétariat du Comité du pays de Galles du BELMR – Elin Haf Gruffyd Jones, University of Wales, Mercator Aberstwyth SY23 3AS, Wales (UK) – téléphone : +44 1970 622 533;
fax : + 44 1970 622 190; e-mail : esj@aber.ac.uk

Elin Haf Gruffyd Jones

Scots d'Ulster – Charte européenne et accords de paix de Belfast

Suite à l'annonce de la signature de la Charte par le Royaume-Uni, le *Scottish Office* a annoncé son intention de la ratifier prochainement pour le gaélique et le scots. Dans le sillage de la ratification prochaine de la Charte en Écosse, pour le gaélique écossais et le scots, le mouvement pour la langue scots d'Ulster ne cache pas sa satisfaction à la perspective d'une annonce prochaine de la ratification de la charte pour l'irlandais et le scots d'Ulster en Irlande du Nord.

Il est clair que le niveau de développement et le statut de ces deux langues sont aussi différents que leurs besoins respectifs. Les récents accords de paix (Good Friday Peace agreement) ont fourni un nouveau support pour le soutien mutuel et le développement parallèle de l'irlandais et du scots d'Ulster en Irlande du Nord. Ils constituent une rupture salutaire avec le passé :
« Tous les participants reconnaissent l'importance du respect, de la compréhension et de la tolérance en matière de diversité linguistique, y compris, dans le cas de l'Irlande du Nord, de la langue irlandaise, du scots d'Ulster et des langues des différentes communautés ethniques qui participent toutes à la richesse culturelle de l'île d'Irlande. »

La dépolitisation de l'irlandais et du scots d'Ulster peut uniquement progresser dans un contexte européen définissant des normes pour le traitement des langues régionales et minoritaires. Il faut souhaiter que ceci contribue à développer un climat de respect et de soutien mutuel plutôt qu'une concurrence entre les deux groupes linguistiques pour l'obtention de maigres ressources. Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues est appelé à jouer un rôle permanent dans ce domaine. Le bénéfice et l'importance du soutien qu'il a apporté jusqu'ici sont reconnus par la communauté de langue scots d'Ulster.

> *« Tous les participants reconnaissent l'importance du respect, de la compréhension et de la tolérance en matière de diversité linguistique, y compris, dans le cas de l'Irlande du Nord, de la langue irlandaise, du scots d'Ulster et des langues des différentes communautés ethniques qui participent toutes à la richesse culturelle de l'île d'Irlande. »*

Le mouvement pour le scots d'Ulster procède actuellement à une révision de sa stratégie. Il a l'intention de se concentrer sur la mise en place de liens avec d'autres communautés de langues régionales ou minoritaires européennes qui font face à des problèmes similaires, en particulier celui de l'appartenance de leur langue à la même famille que la langue officielle ou la langue nationale dominante. Les autres communautés qui font face à ce problème sont les Scots en Écosse, les Frisons en Hollande et les locuteurs de bas-saxon en Allemagne du nord.

La stratégie locale de développement du scots d'Ulster sera liée à la ratification attendue de la Charte. Les domaines qui bénéficieront d'une attention particulière concernent l'établissement d'un statut, les aménagements au sein du système d'enseignement (la publication récente du premier livre de grammaire pour le scots d'Ulster facilitera la tâche), l'incitation au développement de la créativité et des compétences littéraires dans une langue qui est aujourd'hui essentiellement une langue orale. Il s'agit enfin d'accompagner et de tirer partie du renouveau d'intérêt pour le patrimoine littéraire en scots d'Ulster.

John McIntyre

Accord de Belfast et langue irlandaise en Irlande du Nord

La section de l'accord de Belfast concernant la langue irlandaise ne peut pas être analysée sans faire référence à la Charte européenne des langues régionales et minoritaires. Une lecture attentive du texte des deux documents montre en effet combien cet accord a été imprégné à la fois par le texte et l'esprit de la Charte.

Le paragraphe 3, par exemple, a adapté la formule «respect, compréhension et tolérance vis-à-vis des langues régionales ou minoritaires» au contexte de l'Irlande du Nord et a repris telle quelle l'expression «richesse culturelle». Les trois premiers sous-paragraphes du paragraphe 4 de l'accord, qui concernent les principes généraux plutôt que les mesures spécifiques prévues s'appuient largement sur la formulation de la Charte : «la nécessité d'une action résolue de promotion des langues régionales ou minoritaires...» ; «la facilitation et/ou l'encouragement de l'usage oral et écrit des langues régionales ou minoritaires dans la vie publique et privée»; «[...] éliminer [...] toute [...] restriction [...] injustifiée [...] ayant pour but de décourager ou de mettre en danger le maintien ou le développement d'une langue régionale ou minoritaire». (Charte, articles 7:3; 7:1a; 7:1c; 7:1d; 7:2).

Les quatre paragraphes suivants se réfèrent aux trois domaines d'action spécifiques, consultation, enseignement et médias. Leur point commun est de préparer le terrain pour la signature de la Charte par le gouvernement du Royaume-Uni au titre de la langue irlandaise.

Consultation

Le sous-paragraphe de l'accord concernant la consultation constitue une interprétation éclairée de l'article 7:4 de la Charte, qui exprime la nécessité de «[...] prendre en considération les besoins et les souhaits exprimés par les groupes utilisant ces langues». Une section responsable de la diversité linguistique doit être mise en place au sein du Service civil d'Irlande du Nord. Ceci peut être une réponse à une autre recommandation de l'article 7:4 de la Charte réclamant la mise en place d'organes afin de «conseiller les autorités sur toutes les questions concernant les langues régionales ou minoritaires».

Enseignement

Le sous-paragraphe concernant l'enseignement est également significatif. On avait déjà relevé une tendance au rapprochement entre l'enseignement en irlandais et l'enseignement intégré (classes mixtes, protestants et catholiques), bien que ceci soit rarement au bénéfice de l'enseignement par l'intermédiaire de l'irlandais. Principale avancée contenue dans l'accord dans ce domaine, il existe désormais une obligation statutaire pour le Département de l'enseignement en Irlande du Nord (DENI) «d'encourager et de faciliter» l'enseignement en irlandais. Une procédure a été mise en place pour mesurer les efforts du Département. Les implications de ce choix sont importantes. Le DENI va probablement financer un conseil de développement pour ce secteur et pourrait établir un fonds de développement pour faciliter le financement des nouvelles écoles utilisant l'irlandais pour médium. Deux inconvénients principaux sont cependant liés au rapprochement de ces deux secteurs. Le secteur intégré est déjà solidement établi et possède déjà trente écoles subventionnées, tandis que le secteur en irlandais en possède moins de la moitié. De plus, à la différence des écoles qui utilisent l'irlandais comme vecteur, les écoles intégrées bénéficient d'une procédure leur permettant de faire passer des écoles ordinaires dans le secteur de l'enseignement intégré.

Radiodiffusion

Deux sous-paragraphes concernent la radiodiffusion. Le premier, exprimant la volonté de permettre un accès plus large aux programmes de Teilifís na Gaeilge (télévision en irlandais) en Irlande du Nord n'a que peu de signification. Cet engagement a déjà été prononcé en 1996 dans le cadre d'une série de mesures décidées par les gouvernements britannique et irlandais pour faciliter la diffusion de toutes les chaînes de télévision sur l'ensemble de l'île. Le deuxième sous-paragraphe constitue au contraire une innovation majeure. Pour la première fois, une volonté de fournir ou de rechercher des financements pour la télévision et les films en langue irlandaise est exprimée.

Le sous-paragraphe final, analysé parallèlement à l'introduction du paragraphe 3 est quelque peu ambivalent et contient un certain nombre de clauses d'exemption et de phrases difficiles à interpréter. A titre d'exemple, le sens donné au terme «communauté» n'est pas clair. Une chose est cependant claire. Les engagements pris ici le sont par le gouvernement britannique et uniquement par le gouvernement britannique. Aucun mécanisme n'a été identifié pour transférer la responsabilité de la langue irlandaise à la nouvelle assemblée.

Depuis la signature de l'accord, le gouvernement britannique s'est engagé à signer la partie III de la Charte pour la langue irlandaise. Ceci implique un engagement en faveur des mesures définies dans 35 paragraphes ou sous-paragraphes de cette section. D'après un document interne ayant été divulgué, seulement 20 à 25 paragraphes pourraient être signés avant la fin 1998. L'accord de paix permettra la signature d'autres paragraphes. D'autres conditions resteront toutefois à remplir. Ceci est peut être dû au fait que le gouvernement souhaite éviter tout délai et mettre en œuvre toutes les mesures jugées nécessaires entre les élections et le moment où les pouvoirs seront dévolus à la nouvelle Assemblée.

Il est possible qu'un autre facteur entre en jeu. La langue irlandaise est un sujet sensible sur le plan politique en Irlande du Nord. Au cours des négociations qui ont conduit à l'accord de paix, l'argumentation en faveur de l'irlandais a uniquement été soutenue par les partis nationalistes d'Irlande du Nord et le gouvernement de la République d'Irlande. Nul n'ignore que le compromis final sur la langue est un des derniers problèmes à avoir été résolu après avoir rencontré une forte opposition de la part des partis unionistes. Le gouvernement britannique aurait pu craindre que l'Assemblée ne soit pas en mesure de mettre en oeuvre cette partie de l'accord ou de prendre les mesures complémentaires requises pour permettre une signature de la Charte.

Cet accord constitue une avancée majeure pour la communauté irlandophone en Irlande du Nord. Nous devons, certes, toujours faire face à d'énormes problèmes, mais ceux-ci sont de meilleure nature que ceux rencontrés auparavant. Cependant, exception faite des mesures spécifiques contenues dans l'accord de paix, il est impossible à ce stade de prédire les futurs développements. Nous ne savons pas, par exemple, quelles mesures complémentaires devront être prises, suite à la signature de la Charte. Nous ne savons pas si ces mesures seront interprétées de manière minimaliste, littérale ou hostile ou si leur formulation austère et légaliste sera interprétée à la lumière de la prodigieuse ouverture d'esprit qui a imprégné la rédaction de la Charte. Nous ne savons pas si les nouvelles mesures seront mises en place par l'intermédiaire de structures d'appui ou de droits individuels ou encore communautaires. Nous n'avons aucune idée de l'étendue des moyens qui seront disponibles en faveur de la langue et nous ne savons pas comment la communauté linguistique s'adaptera au nouveau contexte.

Un des défis principaux à relever concerne la place de la langue dans les nouvelles structures politiques. Continuera-t-elle à refléter, voire renforcer les divisions politiques et religieuses ? Les responsables politiques nationalistes continueront-ils à apporter leur soutien – essentiellement symbolique – à la langue ? Les hommes politiques unionistes continueront-ils à marquer leur opposition avec autant de virulence ? La normalisation contribuera-t-elle à réduire l'intensité du problème ?

Un des risques toujours présent est l'utilisation politicienne, afin de marquer une appartenance linguistique et culturelle, des langues irlandaise et Scots d'Ulster – pourtant partagées au cours de l'histoire par toutes les composantes de la société, nationalistes et unionistes, catholiques et protestantes – qui viendrait renforcer les fractures politiques principales de notre société. La langue irlandaise est déjà associée dans une mesure inacceptable à la tradition catholique/nationaliste. Certains signes semblent indiquer qu'un certain nombre d'hommes politiques unionistes ont l'intention de promouvoir le scots d'Ulster comme alternative protestante/unioniste. Cette tendance, si elle n'est pas enrayée pourrait avoir des conséquences désastreuses.

Aodán Mac Póilin, Directeur, ULTACH Trust

Rapport Poignant remis à Lionel Jospin

Le 29 octobre 1997, le nouveau premier ministre Lionel Jospin, nommé par le président de la République française Jacques Chirac à la suite de la victoire du parti socialiste aux élections législatives de juin, avait demandé à Mme Nicole Péry, députée des Pyrénées Atlantiques (Pays basque), un rapport sur les langues et cultures régionales en France, pour le 30 avril 1998. L'avis du Conseil d'État du 24 septembre 1996, rendu public seulement en janvier 1997 et qui estimait la Charte européenne des langues régionales et minoritaires incompatible avec la Constitution française avait suscité de vives réactions, non seulement des mouvements de défense des langues minoritaires mais aussi de la part de nombreux élus des régions concernées. Réactions d'autant plus vives que le Conseil d'État se fondait sur l'amendement de l'article 2 de la Constitution introduit en juin 1992 affirmant que «*la langue de la République est le français*», au moment même où le Conseil de l'Europe adoptait la Charte européenne des langues régionales. Le gouvernement socialiste de l'époque avait pourtant solennellement déclaré que cet amendement ne portait pas atteinte au respect de langues et cultures régionales. La journée européenne des langues, instituée pour la première fois le 12 avril 1997 avait été l'occasion de nombreuses manifestations de protestation en France, en Bretagne, Pays basque, Corse et Occitanie.

Au lourd contentieux entre les langues et cultures opprimées en France et l'État jacobin s'ajoutait un nouveau dossier. Aussi, la mission confiée à Nicole Péry suscitait un réel intérêt, car c'était la première fois qu'un premier ministre français demandait un rapport sur les langues et cultures régionales. Elle n'enlevait pas pour autant le scepticisme engendré par la longue expérience de promesses politiques sans lendemain et de l'hostilité avérée de l'appareil d'État à toute reconnaissance de la diversité des cultures et des langues. Après la nomination de Nicole Péry au gouvernement fin mars 1998, c'est à Bernard Poignant, maire de Kemper (Bretagne) que Lionel Jospin a confié le soin de poursuivre le rapport et de présenter des propositions. La réputation jacobine de Bernard Poignant, malgré les récentes actions de la ville de Kemper en faveur de la langue bretonne, nourrissait alors certaines craintes, relayées par des entretiens accordés au cours d'une très large consultation des organisations de défense des langues, de syndicats et de personnalités diverses.

Un choix européen

Comme prévu, le rapport de Bernard Poignant a été remis au premier ministre le 1er juillet 1998. A la satisfaction générale, il a immédiatement été rendu public, ce qui avait été fortement demandé par l'ensemble des mouvements, en particulier aux huitièmes Rencontres Culturelles Interrégionales qui se déroulaient à la fin du mois de juin à Perpignan (Catalogne Nord) sous l'égide de la ville.

Dans l'ensemble des territoires où existe une langue régionale ou minoritaire, les réactions ont été diverses, mais en général relativement positives. Il est vrai que les mouvements retrouvaient les principales revendications, elles-mêmes tout à fait mesurées, qu'ils avaient formulées. L'une des principales, comme le souligne le rapport, était la ratification de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires. «***En cette fin de XXe siècle*, affirme Bernard POIGNANT, *la France doit se préparer à signer puis à ratifier la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires du Conseil de l'Europe***». Il propose pour cela une expertise, qui a été confiée par le premier Ministre à un constitutionnaliste, Guy Carcassonne, pour retenir les 35 points minimum nécessaires sur 94 pour ratifier la Charte et conformes au droit constitutionnel français. Réponse attendue le 31 août 1998. Au besoin, il propose une modification de la Constitution, ce qui est aussi une revendication fondamentale des mouvements culturels qui veulent que la France reconnaisse la réalité de la diversité culturelle et linguistique qui la compose. Il suggère d'y ajouter un projet de loi gouvernemental pour compléter le dispositif.

Ces propositions, le rapport les explique par différents choix : le choix européen, car «l'exception culturelle française» ne doit pas signifier l'exclusion de sa propre diversité linguistique et culturelle; le «choix girondin», pour une poursuite du mouvement de décentralisation déjà entamé, la concentration de l'État étant paralysante»; le choix de la francophonie, la France ne pouvant défendre le français à l'extérieur au nom d'une diversité qu'elle combat à l'intérieur ; le choix du multilinguisme, enrichissement pour le pays et pour les individus.

Douze langues ou catégories de langues recensées.

Au préalable, Bernard Poignant a défini les langues concernées, «les langues de culture de la République autres que le français». Ce sont : l'alsacien-mosellan dont la forme écrite est l'allemand; le basque parlé dans une partie du département des Pyrénées-Atlantiques, prolongement de l'aire du basque qui a un statut d'officialité dans l'État espagnol; le breton, dans la partie occidentale de la Bretagne et des villes de Haute-Bretagne, à Paris; le catalan, dans les Pyrénées-Orientales soutenu par l'action du gouvernement catalan au sud et par son statut d'officialité en Espagne; le corse, considéré anciennement comme dialecte italien, reconnu par le statut particulier de l'île; les créoles, cités pour la première fois parmi les langues régionales, langue maternelle la plus répandue dans les départements d'Outre-Mer, de la Guyanne, de la Guadeloupe, de la Martinique et de la Réunion ; l'occitan, sur une vaste étendue du sud de la France, parlé également dans quelques vallées alpines en Italie et au Val d'Aran (Catalogne, Espagne) où il a un statut d'officialité; le néerlandais, c'est à dire le flamand, dans le département du Nord; les langues polynésiennes et mélanésiennes, c'est à dire le tahitien et les langues Kanak aux statuts particuliers liés aux statuts des territoires; les langues d'Oil telles que le picard, le gallo, le poitevin, le saintongeais, le normand, le morvandiau, le champenois, entre autres, sont citées comme devenues actuellement des formes régionales du français; le franco-provençal ou savoyard qui se rapproche des parlers d'Oil.

> *«la République française doit reconnaître qu'il existe sur son territoire des langues et cultures régionales auxquelles elle confère des droits par la loi et le règlement».*

Reconnaissance des langues régionales mais primauté de la langue française

Après un inventaire sur la situation précaire des langues, Bernard Poignant, qui n'a pas voulu entrer dans les détails, mais donner des orientations, fait des propositions concrètes après avoir posé une dizaine de principes généraux.

Parmi ces principes, on retiendra la primauté de la langue française affirmée comme seule langue officielle. Mais, par ailleurs, *«la République française doit reconnaître qu'il existe sur son territoire des langues et cultures régionales auxquelles elle confère des droits par la loi et le règlement»*. *«Celles-ci ne portent pas atteinte à l'identité nationale»* ajoute-t-il. Autres principes, l'apprentissage d'une langue régionale relève d'un choix des parents ou des élèves et non d'une obligation, contrairement à celui du français que tous doivent maîtriser. L'État doit accepter le pluralisme des méthodes pédagogiques, ce qui revient à reconnaître les diverses filières, de la simple initiation, à l'enseignement bilingue paritaire, jusqu'au système par immersion mis en place par les écoles associatives dans les pires difficultés et par une lutte incessante depuis une trentaine d'années, alors qu'il est largement pratiqué hors des frontières. Une plus grande décentralisation vers les régions en matière de langue et culture régionale est également préconisée.

Des avancées à concrétiser

Les propositions concrètes visent essentiellement à mettre en œuvre des moyens pour permettre d'appliquer les orientations : avoir une gestion prévisionnelle des recrutements d'enseignants, augmenter la place des langues régionales au concours pour le recrutement d'enseignants bilingues dans le premier degré, doter les écoles associatives d'un statut public respectant leurs méthodes, seul moyen de leur permettre de se développer.

Dans les domaines de la vie culturelle, on notera en particulier la notion de quota en langue régionale dans les radios et télévisions de service public, proposition intéressante si ces quotas sont conséquents. L'idée de développer des télévisions locales, si l'on en donne les moyens aux régions pourrait permettre d'aller vers des télévisions en langue régionale ou en grande partie en langue régionale.

Enfin, des lieux de concertation, tant au niveau de l'État, comme le Conseil national des langues et cultures régionales de France, que des *«régions, collectivités auxquelles serait reconnue la compétence en matière de langues et cultures»* sont proposés. Les «contrats de plan» entre l'État et les régions pourraient être un cadre de négociation, l'État y inscrivant l'objectif «langues et cultures régionales».

Ainsi que le dit le président de l'Académie basque, Jean Haritschelhar, *«ce rapport mérite considération. Loin de l'approbation béate comme de la critique systématique. Il convient (...) d'en souligner les avancées de même que les crispations et les réticences»*. Nous sommes encore loin de la reconnaissance de la diversité culturelle des pays les plus avancés d'Europe. Mais le temps du mépris n'est pas totalement du passé en France et des exemples multiples existent toujours de hauts fonctionnaires de l'État qui s'opposent très concrètement à l'utilisation des langues régionales dans différentes régions et collectivités. Ils ne font que traduire la réalité idéologique de l'appareil d'État. La place précaire des langues et cultures régionales dans les média et l'enseignement n'est plus à démontrer. Alors on attend maintenant de Lionel Jospin qu'il traduise en actes des propositions qui permettraient à la France de tenir un rang un peu plus honorable en Europe vis-à-vis du respect dû à ses langues et cultures régionales au regard des Droits de l'Homme. Ce rapport l'y invite fortement.

Tangi Louarn
Vice-président du Conseil culturel de Bretagne.

Brezoneger ma'z on

Brezoneger ma'z on

N'em-eus lch all abed da zurentez
Nemed Yez ma evidon-me,
Ar brezoneg eo ma bro.

N'em-eus danvez all ebed da zivenn
Nemed al lennad chouchenn bero,
Ar gwelien gouez
Ar vag ahanon er-mêz hag e-barz,
Ar brezoneg eo ma bro.

N'em-eus banniel all ebed da heulia
Nemed ar geriou kanab dideuhuz,
Adgweet gand ma glaourenn
Hag a guz ouz ar zellou emon noaz,
Ar brezoneg eo ma bro.

Douaroniez an tro-war-dro.

(*Ar Mên Du*, 1974)

«Kop football ar bed war Eurosport Breizh»

La Coupe du monde de football semble avoir dominé les écrans de télévision du monde entier au début de l'été. En Bretagne, l'événement a pris une dimension d'autant plus exceptionnelle que les 64 matches et la cérémonie d'ouverture ont été retransmis en langue bretonne sur la chaîne satellitaire et câblée Eurosport qui touche 210 millions de téléspectateurs dans le monde. Patrick le Lay (PDG de TF1 et d'Eurosport France) et Charles Biétry (PDG d'Eurosport International), tous deux bretons, sont à l'origine de ce projet expérimental. Ils sont parvenus à réunir six commentateurs répartis en équipes de deux par match, afin de couvrir l'intégralité de la coupe du monde. Au total, 130 heures de programmes en breton ont été diffusées pendant la coupe du monde, contre 50 heures diffusées annuellement par la télévision régionale de service public. Un énorme travail de préparation a été réalisé pour rassembler la documentation nécessaire, déterminer le style des commentaires et choisir le vocabulaire à utiliser. Pal (but), digoll (coup-franc), tenn-korn (corner) sont des mots que les téléspectateurs auront pu entendre quotidiennement tout au long de cette coupe du monde. Seizième langue diffusée sur Eurosport, le breton est la première langue minoritaire d'Europe diffusée par la chaîne à ce jour. Pour Patrick le Lay, cette expérience est une première étape vers la création d'une chaîne régionale. Il prévoit d'annoncer un projet en ce sens dans les mois à venir. Eurosport nourrit également des projets de versions en langues régionales telles que le catalan ou le basque. Ce développement est à mettre en parallèle avec le projet de création d'une télévision bretonne, présenté en juillet par le Conseil culturel de Bretagne.

Il faut remonter aux années de guerre pour éclairer le contexte du déclin de la langue bretonne. A la veille de la première guerre mondiale, on estime que 1,5 million de personnes parlaient Breton. 240.000 Bretons furent tués pendant cette guerre, soit un homme sur quatre parmi les Bretons qui y participèrent. Durant la seconde guerre mondiale, la plupart des Bretons combattirent dans les rangs de la résistance. Cependant, un petit nombre d'entre eux collaborèrent avec les allemands, aveuglés par l'espoir d'obtenir une plus grande indépendance de leur part en signe de reconnaissance. Ils furent trahis et les conséquences de leurs choix eurent des conséquences terribles au lendemain de la guerre. Des centaines de prêtres, poètes, écrivains, enseignants de breton ou encore juristes furent rassemblés et exécutés pour beaucoup, placés en détention près de Rennes pour les autres. Membres des mouvements de résistance pour un grand nombre, ils ne furent pas arrêtés pour collaboration mais pour leurs convictions bretonnes.

Ceci a conduit, en toute logique, à un déclin radical du breton et au développement d'un sentiment de peur, ressenti jusqu'à ce jour par certaines personnes âgées, à l'idée de parler breton en public. Ce climat de terreur s'est également traduit par l'incapacité du groupe de population âgé de plus de soixante ans à transmettre sa langue aux générations suivantes, le tout servi par une politique d'enseignement visant délibérément à détruire la langue bretonne.

Cependant, on observe aujourd'hui un regain de confiance dans l'utilisation du breton. Une étude, publiée en 1998 par le quotidien du Finistère *le Télégramme*, révèle que 88% des Bretons interrogés souhaitent sauvegarder et promouvoir le breton et que 97% des 15-19 ans souhaitent qu'il soit enseigné dans toutes les écoles. La langue bénéficie donc d'un soutien important dans l'opinion, que révèle également l'explosion du nombre de participants aux différents cours et stages de langue. A noter également le développement des radios en langue bretonne, crucial pour une communauté de bretonnants dispersée.

Ce regain d'intérêt, pour peu qu'il soit appuyé par la création d'une nouvelle télévision bretonne et que le public apporte son soutien politique actif, pourrait marquer un tournant décisif en faveur du renouveau de la langue bretonne.

D. Hicks et Y. Rivallain

Trois nouvelles radios bilingues en Autriche

Au mois d'octobre, trois stations de radio privées mettant l'accent sur les langues des communautés ethniques ont vu le jour en Autriche. Radio Agora et Radio Korotan à Kärnten diffuseront en alternance des programmes en Slovène. Dans le Burgenland, Radio Agora intègrera du croate, du hongrois et du roumain à ses programmes[1]. L'offre de programmes radiophoniques en langues minoritaires s'en trouvera non seulement augmentée mais également diversifiée. Il aura fallu près de dix ans depuis la plainte déposée par Radio Agora devant la Commission européenne des Droits de l'Homme à Strasbourg pour qu'aujourd'hui, après la levée du monopole de l'État sur la radiodiffusion, un programme plurilingue conçu par une société privée puisse être diffusé. Avec retard par rapport aux autres pays européens, c'est donc un nouveau chapitre de l'histoire de la radiodiffusion qui débute en Autriche.

Dès l'origine, des monopoles sur la radiodiffusion se sont développés dans les États européens, au sein desquels les radios de service public ont «joué le double rôle de sphère publique de l'État-Nation et de foyer d'identification à la culture nationale[2].» Conformément à cette conception de la radio sous contrôle de l'État, dans la plupart des pays européens, les langues minoritaires ont bénéficié d'une attention réduite, limitée à des niches dans la programmation. En Autriche, des programmes en langue slovène ont été introduits en 1946 et en langues croate et hongroise à partir de la fin des années 70. La place déjà marginale des langues des communautés ethniques sur les radios publiques a été de nouveau réduite par la diversification de l'offre et la segmentation des types de programmes. Tandis que pour la langue dominante, il existe des fréquences distinctes pour les différents groupes cibles visés, les langues minoritaires restent cantonnées à des fenêtres de programmation sur l'une d'entre elles[3]. À titre d'exemple, le temps de diffusion en langue slovène sur la radio publique se limite depuis des années à environ 50 minutes par jour.

Étant donnée cette situation peu satisfaisante, en 1989, AGORA a commencé à émettre depuis l'Italie un programme bilingue diffusé en Carinthie. Les démarches entreprises pour obtenir une fréquence en Autriche étaient restées infructueuses en raison du monopole sur la radiodiffusion. S'appuyant sur l'article 10 de la Convention européenne des Droits de l'Homme concernant l'accès à l'information, AGORA a déposé une plainte auprès de la Commission des droits de l'Homme. Celle-ci a été déposée en même temps que d'autres plaintes contre le monopole autrichien de radiodiffusion et la cour de justice a tranché en faveur d'une révision de la législation autrichienne sur la radiodiffusion. Dans son jugement, la cour a indiqué en particulier que «les intérêts et les besoins d'un public spécifique ainsi que les obligations relevant des instruments du droit international» devraient être pris en compte[4]. Ce sont principalement les obligations envers les communautés ethniques présentes sur le territoire d'un État qui étaient visées ici, telles que les obligations inscrites dans la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires. Suite à l'absence de prise en compte des radios non commerciales, telles que AGORA lors de la première phase d'attribution des licences en 1994, une plainte a entraîné une nouvelle modification de la loi sur les radios privées. Lors du nouvel appel d'offres pour l'attribution des fréquences en 1997, les organisations souhaitant émettre des programmes en langues minoritaires ont été prises en compte. Elles ont commencé à émettre à l'automne 1998. La Commission autrichienne pour la radio a alloué à Radio Agora-Korotan une fréquence couvrant la région d'implantation de la communauté ethnique slovène à la condition que celle-ci diffuse au moins 50% des commentaires en slovène. Un financement au titre des réserves budgétaires affectées aux communautés ethniques doit être accordé par la chancellerie fédérale pour la mise en place de ces deux stations ainsi que pour Radio Mora dans le Burgenland.

Radio Korotan se définit comme un projet de radio commerciale et souhaite assurer son financement à l'aide de recettes publicitaires; les subventions financières en provenance du budget de la chancellerie fédérale consacré aux communautés ethniques serviront à couvrir les dépenses supplémentaires entraînées par la diffusion bilingue. Radio MORA et Radio AGORA ont choisi le concept de radio communautaire non commerciale : elles souhaitent consacrer du temps d'antenne aux initiatives émanant de la société civile, dans le domaine de la culture, de la formation ou du social. Des ateliers sur les médias organisés dans les écoles auront pour objectif de susciter la participation active des enfants et des adolescents au média radiophonique. Radio AGORA et MORA s'appuient sur des expériences déjà menées dans d'autres pays européens où des radios communautaires non commerciales sont devenues un forum pour les langues minoritaires. Selon elles, des efforts particuliers doivent être menés pour promouvoir une société bilingue voire plurilingue. Il convient également de déterminer la meilleure façon d'utiliser les deux langues aussi bien dans les programmes en langues majoritaires que minoritaires. Le défi consiste à élaborer un style d'animation susceptible de plaire aux auditeurs maîtrisant les deux langues, c'est à dire à renoncer à l'usage de la traduction littérale. Il s'agit néanmoins de garantir parallèlement que les locuteurs monolingues – ceci vaut pour la majorité des germanophones – puissent suivre les émissions et éprouvent un désir d'acquérir une maîtrise, ne serait-ce que passive, de la langue minoritaire. Dans ce but, il faut rompre avec la division en systèmes de médias parallèles, séparés par la langue, et faire en sorte que le bilinguisme ou le multilinguisme deviennent des composantes intégrales du quotidien en matière de programmes radiophoniques.

Il ne fait aucun doute que le niveau de présence médiatique d'une langue minoritaire a une incidence déterminante, aussi bien sur la situation de la langue au sein de la société, en particulier du point de vue de son prestige, que sur les compétences linguistiques individuelles des locuteurs d'une langue minoritaire. Des études sociolinguistiques menées à Kärnten ont mis en évidence à plusieurs reprises le changement de code fréquemment opéré du slovène vers l'allemand et les interférences provoquées sur l'expression en slovène, lorsqu'on aborde des thèmes tels que la technique, les questions d'environnement ou les événements politiques internationaux. Il s'agit de thèmes qui ne sont quasiment jamais abordés en langue slovène sur les médias à Kärnten. Grâce à la création de ces nouvelles stations de radio, une offre soucieuse d'élargir la variété des thèmes abordés et de toucher les enfants et les adolescents sera désormais disponible.

Dr. Brigitte Busch

[1] En Autriche, les communautés ethniques reconnues comme telles sont celles des Slovènes, des Croates, des Hongrois, des Tchèques, des Slovaques des Roma et des Sinti.

[2] David Morley, Kevin Robins : *Spaces of identity. Global media, electronic landscapes and cultural boundaries*, London, New-York, 1996, p. 10.

[3] Brigitte Busch, *Der virtuelle Dorfplatz. Minderheitenmedien, Globalisierung und kulturelle Identität*, Klagenfurt, 1998.

[4] European Court of Human Rights, «*Case of Informationsverein lentia and others v. Austria, judgement* 25.11.1993, § 2, Art. 38.»

Jardins d'enfants bilingues en Autriche

Les slovènes d'Autriche portent la question politique des jardins d'enfants sur le devant de la scène européenne». Ainsi titrait un journal autrichien le 9 juin dernier, suite à la visite de Joachim Fronja, (DGXXII de la Commission européenne) et Friedhelm Frischenschlager (Parlementaire européen autrichien) à la communauté slovène de Karnten (Autriche).

Photo: F. Frischenlager (MPE), A. Wakounig (Ehota Lista) ey A. Riemersma (Bureau européen) pendant leur visite à un jardin d'enfants bilingue (allemand/slovène).

Cette communauté d'environ 35.000 locuteurs, située près de la frontière entre l'Autriche et la Slovénie dans la partie sud du pays, a participé à plusieurs initiatives au cours des dix dernières années. L'une d'entre elles a porté sur l'enseignement préscolaire : un jardin d'enfants bilingue a été mis en place par les autorités locales dans le village de Bleiburg/Pliberk et bénéficie d'un financement public. Le slovène et l'allemand sont utilisés tous les jours pour le jeu et la lecture et pour l'apprentissage des poèmes et des chansons traditionnelles ou modernes. Les enfants de familles de langue slovène se retrouvent avec des enfants de familles germanophones et leurs parents et grand-parents participent à des activités avec les enfants. Les enseignants impliqués sont formés par le Kindergartenseminar à Klagenfurt/Celovec.

Ce projet de petite envergure associe de manière exemplaire l'enseignement au maintien et à la transmission de l'héritage culturel de l'espace linguistique. Les enfants sont ainsi : plus enclins à communiquer à la fois avec les germanophones d'Autriche et avec leurs voisins slovènes de l'autre côté des montagnes.

À travers de petits projets tels que celui-ci, la communauté slovène montre que l'intégration européenne commence par des bonnes relations de voisinage. Les enfants, tout au moins, sont d'ores et déjà prêts à communiquer avec les nouvelles générations de Slovénie, futur membre de l'UE.

Conformément à la loi sur l'enseignement préscolaire de l'État du Burgenland (Kindergartengesetz), les jardins d'enfants bilingues des minorités hongroise et croate sont mis en place par les autorités locales et financés en partie par la communauté locale, par l'État du Burgenland et par l'État central. Cependant, dans l'État fédéral de Kärnten, il n'existe à ce jour aucune loi sur l'enseignement préscolaire. En conséquence, il revient à chaque communauté locale de décider de la mise en place et du financement du jardin d'enfants. A de nombreuses occasions, les autorités locales ont refusé de mettre en place ou de subventionner un jardin d'enfants pour des raisons politiques. Dans un tel cas de figure, il n'existe aucun financement, tant à l'échelon local que central. Certaines communautés dans lesquelles les parents envisagent d'ouvrir un jardin d'enfants bilingue ne bénéficient donc pas des moyens nécessaires. Dans certains cas, lorsqu'un jardin d'enfants a été financé par des initiatives privées, les parents doivent verser deux fois plus d'argent pour leurs enfants que les autres parents, parfois même pour deux fois moins d'heures de prise en charge! A titre d'exemple, l'an passé, des parents ont ouvert un jardin d'enfants privé à Ferlach/Borovlje. Ils ont dû investir 1.200.000 Schilling en frais de construction tandis que les coûts d'exploitation s'élèvent à 1.000.000 Schilling par an. Avec l'approbation des autorités locales, l'État central aurait été en mesure de participer à hauteur de 300.000 Schilling par an et le reste aurait pu être payé par l'Etat de Kärnten ! Par chance, la Commission européenne a subventionné le jardin d'enfants pour une année de plus (300.000 Schilling autrichiens). Cependant, en raison de la suspension de la ligne budgétaire en faveur des langues minoritaires, il est improbable que l'Union européenne continue à verser sa subvention.

L'Autriche a signé la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires en 1992 et a récemment exprimé son intention de la ratifier dans les délais. Il faut espérer que le gouvernement autrichien coopère avec les États du Burgenland et de Kärnten pour mettre en place une base légale pour l'enseignement préscolaire conformément au paragraphe 8.1 (a) (ii) (mesures en faveur de l'enseignement préscolaire) et 8.h (formation des enseignants) de la Charte.

Alexander Riemersa

SIMMERBAREN 500

Le jeune Catalan feuillette ses notes. Il jette un coup d'œil à la boulangère derrière le comptoir. Il baisse à nouveau les yeux pour parcourir ses feuilles de papier. Il donne un coup de coude au garçon à ses côtés : «vas-y, vas-y, demande-lui !». Sa réponse n'aurait pas pu être plus prévisible : «Non, non demande-lui, toi !». Quelques instants plus tard, il parvient à enchaîner une série de sons avec hésitation : «*Hauwe jo foar my in bôle ?*» (Puis-je avoir un pain s'il-vous plaît ?). Comme l'apprentissage de quelques rudiments d'une langue peut-être difficile en une matinée !

Ce morceau choisi nous donne une idée de l'atelier «Le frison c'est cool», une des nombreuses activités organisées à l'occasion de la conférence pour la jeunesse **Simmerbarren 500** qui s'est tenue en Frise / Fryslân (Pays-Bas) du 25 juillet au 1er août dernier. Plus de 300 participants et organisateurs ont été répartis dans quatre villages, chacun d'entre eux consacré à un aspect différent du thème de la semaine : «L'emploi».

Le coup d'envoi de la semaine a été lancé avec l'arrivée des participants le 25 juillet, à Ljouwert, capitale de la Frise, à partir d'où ils se sont dirigés vers leurs destinations respectives. Le jour suivant, ils se sont tous à nouveau rassemblés dans le petit village de Jorwert, symbole du cœur de la Frise mais aussi des changements subis par la Frise rurale au cours de ce siècle. Jorwert a perdu pratiquement toutes ses petites entreprises et si l'on fait exception de quelques agriculteurs, le revenu de sa population dépend entièrement de la ville de Ljouwert située à proximité. Les participants à Simmerbarren ont égayé le village en déployant leurs parapluies jaunes arborant le logo de Simmerbarren : un soleil qui tournoie et diffuse des rayons de lumière.

Dans chacun des lieux où s'est déroulée la conférence de Simmerbarren, les participants on pu choisir de prendre part à une série d'ateliers, de cours et d'excursions. Nombre d'entre eux ont participé à l'élaboration d'un plan de développement pour leur lieu d'accueil, ce qui leur a donné l'occasion de rencontrer des problèmes qu'ils connaissent malheureusement chez eux : chômage élevé, fuite des cerveaux, ou encore contradictions entre le commerce et la culture ou l'environnement.

> *Tous les participants ont finalement quitté la boulangerie avec un pain sous le coude. Toutefois, au moment de sortir, un jeune roumain germanophone a hésité quelques secondes, puis, se tournant vers le commerçant, lui a lancé les deux mots suivants, en prenant soin de bien articuler : «Oant sjen» (au revoir).*

D'autres se sont montrés plus intéressés par le développement personnel et on participé à des jeux de simulation pour déterminer leur situation générale dans la vie. Une citation de cette cession résume les réflexions et le sentiment de nombreux jeunes : «il faut travailler pour vivre et vivre pour le travail».

Les liens entre l'emploi et la culture, l'environnement et les politiques publiques ont également été étudiés. M. Dafydd Gruffydd, responsable linguistique à Ynys Môn au nord du pays de Galles a livré une bonne illustration de ce lien. Son exposé a porté sur la beauté naturelle et la vie culturelle florissante du pays de Galles ainsi que sur les efforts entrepris pour promouvoir l'utilisation du gallois dans les affaires. Il a expliqué que les recherches montrent que les clients se sentent plus à l'aise lorsqu'ils peuvent utiliser le gallois pour les affaires car cela favorise la confiance et les affinités avec l'entreprise.

Les contacts entre les Européens et leurs hôtes au cours des excursions se sont révélés particulièrement intéressants. «Je n'aime pas les vaches» a déclaré une jeune Slovène au cours de la visite d'une école d'élevage; «J'habite dans une ville et pour moi le lait sort d'une bouteille». Cette excursion comptait néanmoins parmi les éléments incontournables d'une conférence pour la jeunesse, dans une région «qui compte plus de vaches que d'habitants», selon la formule du maire de l'une des communes d'accueil.

Pendant la durée de l'événement, les participants et la population locale ont pu utiliser leur propre monnaie : l'Euro de Simmerbaren pouvait être utilisé dans de nombreux commerces et restaurants locaux au taux de deux Guildes pour un Euro. Cet événement, ainsi que le reste des activités, ont été couverts par le journal quotidien *Sinnestriel*. Une équipe complète de rédacteurs et de correspondants a travaillé nuit et jour pour que les actualités du jour soient publiées avant midi le jour suivant. Les lignes de bus régulières ont même été utilisées pour mener à bien ce travail, les chauffeurs de bus transportant les films et les articles jusqu'à la gare des bus de Ljouwert, où il les remettaient à un des éditeurs.

Le dernier jour de la conférence a donné l'occasion aux participants de se retrouver tous ensemble pour la dernière fois dans la ville la plus septentrionale de Frise, Dokkum. Des concerts ont été donnés par des groupes musicaux et les résultats de certains ateliers ont été présentés. Dans l'ensemble, le sentiment commun des participants et des organisateurs s'est révélé – c'est le moins qu'on puisse dire – très positif. Simmerbarren 500, une des plus grandes conférences de jeunes issus de minorités ethniques organisée en Europe à ce jour, venait de déboucher sur une multitude de résultats tout en suscitant l'intérêt des médias internationaux. Il n'a pas toujours été facile de faire face à une telle diversité culturelle. Cependant, une compréhension mutuelle s'est installée progressivement et de nombreuses amitiés ont vu le jour. Comme nous le rappelle la chanson de Simmerbarren, spécialement enregistrée sur un CD qui est toujours en vente : «Ensemble nous réussirons».

Tous les participants ont finalement quitté la boulangerie avec un pain sous le coude. Toutefois, au moment de sortir, un jeune roumain germanophone a hésité quelques secondes, puis, se tournant vers le commerçant, lui a lancé les deux mots suivants, en prenant soin de bien articuler : «*Oant sjen*» (au revoir).

Klaas Johan

Pour obtenir davantage d'informations sur les résultats de la conférence, contactez :

Simmerbaren 500
PO Box 536
NL – 8901 BH, LJOUWERT
Courrier électronique : sb500@worldonline.nl

UNE LOI POUR LES MINORITES ITALIENNES... ENFIN ?

L'article 6 de la Constitution italienne, rédigé il y a plus de 50 ans, prévoyait des mesures de protection spéciales pour les minorités linguistiques en Italie. Cependant, ces minorités attendent en vain leur promulgation prévue par la constitution depuis 50 ans.
L'heure a peut-être sonnée avec le gouvernement. Une loi de protection des minorités linguistiques historiques d'Italie pourrait être soumise au Parlement avant la fin de 1998.

Le 17 juin dernier, la Chambre des députés a approuvé une loi présentée par le député Domenico Maselli à une large majorité de 205 votes (67 députés ont voté contre, 58 se sont abstenus). «La loi ne compte désormais pratiquement aucun opposant et devrait être votée sans problème par le Sénat» déclare avec optimisme le Professeur Domenico Morelli, Président du CONFEMILI, le comité d'État membre du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues. «Cette loi est la meilleure que nous puissions obtenir» estime M.Morelli, lui-même Albanais de Calabre. Confiant, il compte sur une approbation définitive du texte dans le courant de l'automne.

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La nouvelle loi donne la responsabilité de la délimitation des territoires sur lesquels résident ces communautés aux Conseils provinciaux. Elle prévoit la possibilité d'utiliser la langue maternelle dans les corps administratifs et l'introduction des langues minoritaires dans les jardins d'enfants et les écoles. Elle prévoit des dispositions en faveur d'une couverture médiatique et encourage également l'utilisation de noms et de toponymes en langues minoritaires. Le budget total prévu pour la mise en place de cette nouvelle loi s'élève à 20,5 milliards de Lires italiennes pour 1999 (environ 10,5 millions d'ECU).

Les vingt articles du texte ne seront cependant pas tous adoptés sans objection. La mise en œuvre de la nouvelle loi est par exemple sujette à une barrière : au moins 15% des citoyens résidant dans une communauté doivent réclamer une protection spéciale. En-dessous de ce seuil, aucune mesure de protection en faveur des langues moins répandues ne sera mise en place, à moins qu'un tiers du Conseil de Communauté n'en décide autrement. En conséquence, la reconnaissance des minorités historiques dépend de la volonté des majorités italiennes. En outre, les Roma n'ont pas été inclus parmi les douze minorités présentes sur la liste. Malgré ces réserves, les minorités linguistiques en Italie restent convaincues que l'adoption de cette loi constituera une avancée majeure pour la survie et la promotion de leurs langues et de leurs cultures.

Ivana Suhadolc

Rencontres corses sur les îles d'Åland

Un récent séminaire sur le thème des régions insulaires a rassemblé, pour la première fois depuis des années, différentes organisations corses qui avaient rompu tout contact sur le plan politique. Cette conférence, organisée par le Centre européen pour les questions de minorités (ECMI), s'est tenue sur les îles d'Åland, une région insulaire appartenant à la Finlande qui compte 25.000 locuteurs de suédois.

Un des co-organisateurs, John Loughlin, Professeur de politique européenne à l'Université du pays de Galles à Cardiff, a estimé que les îles d'Åland offraient un cadre paisible et de solides structures autonomes, propres à faciliter l'organisation d'un tel séminaire. Selon lui, le niveau des débats a été particulièrement élevé et des avancées importantes ont été réalisées en matière de rapprochement des différentes organisations corses. *«Les Corses ont dès le début été intrigués par les îles d'Åland»*, a souligne M.Loughlin, *«ils ont été de surcroît impressionné par le fait que ces îles disposaient de leur propre siège au Conseil nordique, au même titre que les îles Féroé et le Groenland par exemple»*.

En raison de sa nature, le débat a fait les grands titres des journaux français et corses. Une semaine après la fin du séminaire, des entretiens donnant suite à celui-ci ont été publiés dans le quotidien national français, *le Figaro*, consacrés en grande partie aux structures politiques autonomes des îles d'Åland et dans quelle mesure celles-ci pourraient servir de modèle à la Corse. Les observateurs se sont également plus à souligner les trajectoires différentes suivies par la France et la Finlande jusqu'à ce jour bien que la Finlande ait basé sa constitution de 1917 sur celle de la France.

Une des problématiques principales posée à l'occasion de ce séminaire concerne la possibilité de mettre en place des structures comparables en Corse. Jean-Félix Aquaviva, du mouvement nationaliste corse *Corsa Viva*, a suggéré d'aborder cette question sous forme de tables rondes entre les différents acteurs corses et français.

L'idée d'un tel séminaire avait reçu le soutien d'Åland, de Paris et de la Corse. Farimah Daftary, chercheur en sciences politiques à l'ECMI et coordinateur du séminaire a rappelé que la liste des participants devait être aussi large que possible afin d'attirer des personnalités de premier plan issues des différents mouvements corses. A cet effet, le titre de la conférence se devait d'être aussi neutre que possible : *Régions insulaires et intégration européenne : comparaison entre la Corse et les îles d'Åland*. Il faut relever la participation de l'ancien ministre de l'intérieur français, Pierre Joxe, président en exercice de la Cour nationale des comptes.

Le Centre européen pour les questions de minorités, organisateur de cette conférence, a été établi en 1996 à Flensburg, à la frontière germano-danoise, une région comprenant quatre minorités linguistiques : allemande, danoise, frisonne, Sinti et Roma. Financé par les gouvernements allemand, danois et par l'État du Schleswig Holstein, l'ECMI concentre ses activités sur la recherche, l'information et la gestion des conflits. Des informations supplémentaires sur l'ECMI et la conférence sont disponibles sur Internet à l'adresse suivante: http://www.ecmi.de

Brigitte Alfter,
Flensborg Avis

Histoire de la littérature galicienne

Cinquante spécialistes dans différentes disciplines ont participé à l'élaboration de *l'Histoire de la littérature galicienne*, une œuvre collective de référence parue aux éditions AS-PG et A Nosa Terra. Publiée sous forme de volumes et de fascicules pendant trois ans, cette encyclopédie présente les auteurs et les œuvres les plus significatives de la littérature galicienne du moyen-âge à nos jours.

Rédigée en galicien, cette œuvre a nécessité un travail éditorial gigantesque qui n'aurait pas été possible sans le dévouement de ses auteurs, le précieux soutien de la Commission européenne et surtout du public galicien. Ce travail répond à une double volonté : permettre à tous les publics de découvrir le patrimoine littéraire de Galice et mettre à jour les travaux de recherche et de critique littéraire existants. L'œuvre est séparée en deux parties distribuées conjointement, une *Anthologie de la littérature galicienne* en 51 volumes d'une part, et *l'Histoire de la littérature galicienne*, composée de 50 fascicules regroupés en 5 volumes (plus de 1.600 pages et 2000 illustrations) d'autre part. Chaque fascicule est lié à un volume de l'anthologie et livre des informations générales sur l'auteur et le contexte historique et culturel de l'œuvre proposée.

Fort d'un succès dépassant toutes les attentes auprès du grand public, cet ouvrage est en passe de devenir un outil de référence incontournable pour les universités et les centres culturels consacrés à la langue et à la culture galicienne.

Carme Fernandez Pérez Sanjulian

Bibliographie sélective des langues minoritaires

La deuxième édition de la *Bibliographie sélective* – publiée dans un format bilingue français– anglais en 1997 – rassemble quelques références de base sur 40 différentes langues autochtones minoritaires dans l'Union Européenne.

Le choix des titres s'adresse à un public désireux d'obtenir un aperçu suffisamment exhaustif et à jour des ouvrages disponibles. Cette bibliographie se veut sélective et générale et est, de ce fait, limitée. En conséquence, la plupart des titres retenus ont été publiés au cours des quinze dernières années.

Les quelque 2.000 références bibliographiques sont réparties dans 40 sections, une pour chacune des langues minoritaires, précédées d'une section préliminaire regroupant environ 200 titres généraux. Chacune des sections contient des titres classés selon quelques thèmes essentiels, tels que les ouvrages généraux, l'utilisation de la langue dans les services publics, la justice, l'enseignement, les médias, ouvrages couvrant la culture et l'histoire, la vie économique et sociale, les rapports transfrontaliers.

Les langues ont été classées par ordre alphabétique en suivant l'anglais. Cette publication peut-être commandée auprès du Centre d'Information de Bruxelles au prix de 8 Ecus/400 BEF.

Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter M. Christian Demeure–Vallée, Centre d'Information de Bruxelles du Bureau Européen pour les Langues Moins Répandues, tel: 32– 2–218–25–90

Rapports des visites d'étude

Depuis 1983, plus de 90 visites dans plus de 35 communautés de langue moins répandue ont été organisées par le Bureau Européen pour le compte de la Commission Européenne. A ce jour, plus de mille personnes ont participées à ce programme. Celui-ci est financé à 100% par la DGXXII et permet l'étude des structures d'enseignement, culturelles, administratives et médiatiques consacrées aux langues et cultures régionales ou minoritaires dans une communauté.

L'objectif principal du programme de visites d'étude est d'augmenter la connaissance de la situation réelle des langues régionales et minoritaires. Le processus d'intégration européenne doit favoriser la coopération entre les régions de langue minoritaires dans l'Union. Ces visites contribuent fortement à améliorer les contacts et les échanges d'expérience au sein de l'Union.

Six à sept visites sont organisées chaque année, chaque groupe comptant dix à douze participants eux–mêmes issus de régions de langue minoritaire de l'Union européenne. Un rapporteur par groupe est désigné ; son rôle est de préparer un rapport basé sur les réunions organisées quotidiennement pour établir un compte rendu en fin de journée. Ces rapports sont ensuite rassemblés au sein du *Rapport annuel des visites d'étude*. Trois d'entre eux, couvrant la période de 1994 à 1997 sont désormais disponibles auprès du Bureau européen. Ils comportent des informations inédites sur les minorités linguistiques visitées sur le terrain et couvrent les domaines de l'enseignement, des médias, de la vie sociale et culturelle ainsi que des institutions et des associations visitées. Des chapitres sur les régions et les thèmes suivants sont proposés : Aroumains et Arvanites en Grèce, Ladins en Italie, médias en Catalogne, Pays basque, Galice, Alsace, Corse, Irlande et Vallée d'Aoste pour le rapport 94/95. Au programme de 95/96 : Slovènes en Italie, Danois en Allemagne, Irlande du Nord, Catalans en Sardaigne, pays de Galles et Slovènes d'Autriche. Enfin, le rapport de 96/97 nous présente la situation des Suédois de Finlande, de l'Ecosse, du Pays basque, des Finlandais en Suède, des Catalans en France et de la communauté germanophone au Danemark. Publiés par le siège du Bureau à Dublin, ces rapports contribuent à augmenter la quantité d'informations de qualité, sélectives et à jour sur les langues minoritaires dans l'Union. Ils sont disponibles auprès du Bureau de Dublin au prix de 8 ECU par numéro.

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Mini-manuel des langues moins répandues de l'Union européenne

[illegible]

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Nous serions heureux de recevoir vos lettres, vos articles, etc. Veuillez les adresser à :

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L'objectif du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues est de sauvegarder et de promouvoir les langues autochtones moins répandues de l'Union européenne ainsi que les cultures qu'elles reflètent. Le Bureau est un organisme indépendant enregistré en Irlande en société à responsabilité limitée sans capital actions et en AI en Belgique. Il travaille en collaboration étroite avec la Commission européenne et le Parlement européen ainsi qu'avec des institutions des Etats membres, le Conseil de l'Europe, l'ONU, l'UNESCO et d'autres organismes. Le Bureau est financé par des subventions provenant de la Commission européenne, du gouvernement irlandais, du gouvernement luxembourgeois, du gouvernement provincial de la Frise et de la communauté germanophone de Belgique. Des locaux sont gracieusement mis à la disposition du Centre d'Information de Bruxelles par la Communauté française de Belgique.

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Signature by Member States of the European Charter for Minority or Regional Languages

Austria	Malta
Croatia	Netherlands
Cyprus	Norway
Denmark	Romania
Finland	Slovenia
Germany	Spain
Hungary	Switzerland
Liechtenstein	FYR of Macedonia
Luxembourg	Ukraine

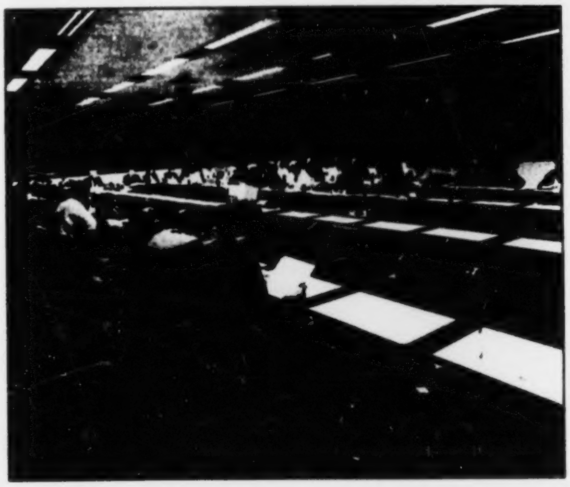
Ratification by Member States of the European Charter for Minority or Regional Languages

- Croatia
- Finland
- Germany
- Hungary
- Liechtenstein
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Switzerland

Signing the Charter, or any such convention, implies agreement with the principles contained therein and should lead to its ultimate ratification.

For further details:
www.coe.fr/eng/legaltxt/148e.htm
www.coe.fr/fr/txtjur/148f.htm

EC proposes legal basis for regional and minority languages



September last in Brussels saw speakers from lesser used language areas come together with European Commission officials and members of EU institutions to discuss the best way forward for the lesser used languages of the Union. Mr Fronia, representing the Commission, read out a speech on behalf of Ms. Edith Cresson who said that the time had now come to convince those millions of speakers who spoke lesser used languages that they were as much a part of European citizenship as everybody else. In responding on a practical level to the needs of these speakers the Commission announced its intention to introduce a pluriannual programme for minority languages. The colloquy was organised by the Commission in association with the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. The following is Commissioner Cresson's text in full.

Although the Colloquy of the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages takes place every year, the aims and ambitions of the one which we are attending today are highly specific.

The Bureau has been in existence now for seventeen years. Its work on the development of co-operation and a new, irreplaceable solidarity between all the linguistic communities of the European Union has been unique. It has enabled certain communities to see that they are not alone and that they can benefit from the experiences of others to solve problems which they sometimes thought were insoluble. The annual Colloquy has worked towards creating this solidarity, encouraging meetings and direct exchanges of experience.

It is now time to move on to the next stage and convince the outside world that action needs to be taken to support these languages which are sometimes under threat. Today's meeting does not simply involve the different members of the Bureau. The Commission wanted to bring together all the European institutions and influential representatives of minority linguistic communities. What is the purpose of this meeting?

The time has come for Europe to show its interest in European citizens who may sometimes feel excluded from the European movement as a whole. Millions of Europeans use regional and minority languages every day, that is a language which is different from the one spoken by the majority of their country's population. This difference is sometimes also felt on a European level.

We want to convince these millions of people that they are just as important as the rest and that they are also European citizens. The Commission therefore wishes to propose a programme spanning several years to promote and maintain regional and minority languages.

This is no easy task. We need to be aware of the requirements and wishes of minority linguistic communities. What is your experience on a daily basis? What kind of problems do you face and what do you need to keep your languages alive? How do you think or believe Europe can be of benefit to you?

We have brought together all the Community institutions to back us up in our task of identifying all the possibilities for action on a European level. They all have different roles, different powers and use different methods but have a shared aim of making the concept of European citizenship a reality.

The round table this afternoon will enable the Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions to express their positions on linguistic minorities and talk about the action taken in this area. Please feel free to comment on their remarks. I hope that the ensuing discussion will prove extremely fruitful. You will probably find that we do not always give the answers you expect, but we are also here to explain the confines of our action, the work which has already been carried out and, above all, our future plans. We hope that this exchange of opinions and information will highlight solutions to help us to establish effective co-operation between the different representatives here today. Without this, all action will be doomed to failure.

1998 marked a very important year in the history of European policy towards minority languages. It was a year during which many things came about in this field, not all of them positive but certainly resulting in positive developments for our languages over the next few years. These events arose in the main from decisions taken by both the Council of Europe and the European Union.

Two important Council of Europe documents entered into force over the past year: *the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* and the *European Charter for Regional and/or Minority Languages*. The Framework Convention is mostly a document of recommendations only, and covers issues which deal specifically with the protection of languages, their place in education and the media, bilingual placenames etc. Up to 31 December last the Convention had been ratified by 24 states (amongst them seven EU member states).

The European Charter, on the other hand, is more technical than the Convention and while containing clear recommendations which would have to be implemented it encountered more difficulties than the Framework Convention in its ratification. In spite of this, for the first time, the minimum number of states (five) needed for its coming into force was surpassed: up to the end of the year this number stood at eight, three of which were EU member states: Finland, the Netherlands and Germany. One must also stress here that three more EU states, France, the United Kingdom and Sweden, announced their impending signature and ratification of the Charter. These latest developments therefore provide us with enough confidence and optimism that both the Council of Europe's Convention and Charter will in the future become de facto minimum standards for linguistic rights throughout the European Union and will form firm bases in the development of policies for the promotion and future growth of our languages.

As I mentioned above not all news emanating from the EU was good news last year due to the fact that Budget Line B3-1006 which funded projects throughout our communities over the past 15 years was discontinued. A decision by the European Court of Justice relating to budget lines forbade the Commission and the Parliament to maintain lines for which there was no firm specific legal basis. On the other hand however, the Commission set about to draft a legal basis for regional or minority languages and an announcement was made by Commissioner Edith Cresson during a colloquy organised on September 22 last to the effect that there could be very soon a specific programme and budget line for our languages. In the meantime the European Parliament and the European Commission resolved financial problems concerning networking and contacts between lesser used language communities on the ground facilitated by structures such as EBLUL and MERCATOR. This they did by including two different items in the proposed EU budget: a specific budget line covering the activities of the European Bureau and the three MERCATOR centres, and the provision of a sum of 2.5 million Euro for preparatory work for a future programme for regional or minority languages.

What all this means for us lesser used language speakers of the Union is that, from a financial point of view, there will be no major changes in 1999. For this we can be grateful to the European Parliament (Intergroup, Cultural Committee and Budget Committee) for its strong support and the European Commission (DGXXII and Finance Commissioner Mr. Liikanen). As we await approval of the new programme let us look forward to a future of positive changes for our languages and cultures.

Bojan Brezigar
President.

Cresson's speech cont'd

Edith Cresson
European Commissioner

To begin with, Mr Brezigar the President of the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages, which organised this Colloquy together with the Commission, is going to talk about the work and activities carried out by the Bureau over the past year.

The main lines and strategies to be developed by the Bureau for the future will also be outlined.

I wish to point out that the Commission's role is not limited to financing the Bureau, whose activities are primordial for all linguistic communities in Europe.

The budget allocated by the European Parliament to the Commission has been used since 1983 to subsidise numerous projects in all the minority linguistic communities of the European Union.

In 1997, nearly 170 projects of different origins and involving different activities and aims were granted joint Community financing.

They ranged from school classrooms to extensive regional projects and from small village associations to university partnerships. The Commission's action in this field has been characterised by diversity, with involvement in education, the media, linguistic planning, enhanced European co- operation through study visits to the communities and the Mercator information network.

Budgets are still modest on a European scale, whilst the needs of these communities are great and increasing all the time. We have to be able to respond to these needs and our current means are inadequate.

The action taken so far has had a real impact, as has been outlined in a recent report assessing Community activities. Although it is difficult to evaluate from an economic point of view, support from Europe has helped to strengthen the cultural identity and confidence of communities which are often unsure of themselves. But we need to do much more... how? We hope that you will be able to help us to identify the action to be taken and define its implementation.

The past year has been extremely eventful. The Bureau has been reorganised, which has given it even more vitality, but a great deal of commitment and work has been required.

But, most importantly, as you know, the budget used to finance the Commission's action to promote and protect regional and minority languages has been suspended. This situation is unacceptable: withdrawing all Community support for regional and minority languages from one day to the next undermines 15 years of work! The Community institutions therefore came together for discussions involving the Council, the Parliament and the Commission to find a pragmatic solution to this crucial problem.

On the basis of separate studies on the cases affected by the suspension of the budget, it was established that most of the activities for 1998 would be financed. In the future the Commission will submit to a decree by the Court of Justice proposing a legal basis for action in favour of regional and minority languages. It is important for the Commission's work to remain within a legal framework. The Court's decree of 12 May 1998 defined the conditions for the existence of Community budget appropriations. Since the appropriation B3-1006 had no legal basis other than the Parliament's statement, it could not continue to exist in its previous form.

Rather than spelling disaster, this situation has given new impetus to Community action. Our commitment and efforts should lead to the proposal of a programme spanning several years to promote regional and minority languages. The work carried out in the past was not sufficient to fulfil requirements. This new programme is to be more ambitious. It will not simply be a continuation of the work carried out by the Commission; it will involve a completely new approach.

Now you know what is expected of you. I feel certain at you are in the best position to provide invaluable support.

Edith Cresson
European Commissioner for Research, Innovation, Education, Training and Youth

Following Commissioner Cresson's speech special delegates working in high–profile positions in their respective minority language fields made the following contributions

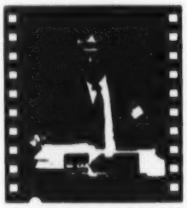
Luciano CAVERI, Member of the Italian Parliament, Aosta Valley, Italy, gave an overview of the linguistic situation in Italy, best described in terms of 'lights and shadows'. He explained that while Article 6 of the Republic's constitution guaranteed protection for the linguistic minorities no legislation was in place from which speakers of all the languages could practically avail. This was of particular detriment to the smaller language communities. A draft bill was being discussed at present in the Italian Chamber of Deputies, but the text which has still not been confirmed by the Senate, was too weak and too compromising, according to Mr.Caveri, to be of any major practical use for minority language speakers. On a regional level however he was more optimistic and he described the linguistic situation in areas such as the South Tirol and Aosta Valley as ideal models from which Europe could learn. He strongly argued for a federalist constitution which he saw as the best way forward for Italy's linguistic minorities. On European level much work was needed along the lines of an international 'guarantee mechanism' which would allow speakers from the linguistic communities direct access to the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights.

Marianne TIDICK, former Minister of Education, Research and Culture in Schleswig Holstein (Germany) and Vice–chairperson of the European Center for Minority Issues, continued with the theme of federalism expressing the reservation that while lesser used language speakers could sometimes be better catered for by federal states such as Germany this could also lead to confusion. She cited the example of the discussions which took place on the re–drafting of the German constitution after re–unification. The question arose then as to which linguistic minorities would come under the protection of this constitution. For the Danes and the Sorbs consensus was reached but not for the Sinti and Roma. The Social Democrats and the Greens strongly supported their inclusion while the conservative parties argued against saying they could be protected under regional legislation. Following debate it was decided that the Sinti and Roma would be included in the next reform of the Constitution of Schleswig Holstein where they have been living for centuries. But the conservative opposition parties in the region came out against this and said that this was a national question and needed to be dealt with by the national constitution. The argument had gone around full circle!

Ms Tidick also referred to the Bonn–Copenhagen Agreement which guaranteed protection for minority speakers on both sides of the German–Danish border. She spoke also of the Flensburg based European Center for Minority Issues which was studying the economic benefits of bilingualism especially in border regions. In conclusion she reminded delegates that great challenges lay ahead: new states would join the Union and the handling of minorities would be the prime test of democratic development and maturity. But she reminded those present not to forget that the EU's record in the past with regard to minorities was not without blemish.

Miquel STRUBELL, from the Departement de Cultura, Generalitat de Catalunya, representing the Minister for Culture of Catalonia., described the two major events of 1998 for the Catalan language: the enactment of a bill by the Catalan Parliament to replace the 1983 Language Act, and the enactment of a bill by the Valencian Parliament setting up the Valencia Language Council. Both bills would help in ensuring language preservation and normalization and while Catalan was in relative strong position compared to other minority languages the introduction of new legislation was important to continue this positive trend. On a more general level Mr. Strubell outlined the main activities of the Government in relation to the language: providing support for initiatives and pursuing a policy of positive discrimination so that everyone has a choice in exercising their linguistic rights freely. He cited the recent agreement between Microsoft and the Basque and Catalan governments in ensuring Basque and Catalan language–versions of Windows 98. He went on to describe how guarantees for the protection of the language needed to evolve along with the needs of speakers. The new language act responded to such evolvements by including new elements such as dubbing quotas in cinemas and fixing baseline percentages of programmes and music in Catalan in public and commercial radio stations. As regards Valencia a report by the Consell Valencià de Cultura, was adopted by the Valencian parliament in the form of a bill. The bill will establish an authoritative language decision–making body which will determine linguistic policy in Valencia, where language needs are not necessarily the same as those in Catalonia. And while the Catalan government has no direct say in Valencian affairs Strubell stressed the will of his government in working together for the benefit of all.

Strubell brought delegates' attention to an existing paradox for Catalan at European level: while the European Union can sign agreements in Catalan with Andorra, (where Catalan is the official language), tax–paying Catalan speakers in the European Union cannot!



Henrik LAX, member of the Finnish parliament and Chairman of the Swedish Assembly of Finland, spoke of structures for our languages and described the situation in Finland where many such structures existed already from which the Swedish language could avail. Finnish and Swedish are equal languages according to the Finnish constitution and detailed language acts regulate the rights of the Swedish speakers. Diversity of European culture being one of the cornerstones of the European Union, meant one needed to go a step further and develop a structure for minority language speakers throughout Europe.

The enforcement of a European network for minority languages is of particular importance to the weakest minority language communities. He praised the work already being carried out by the Bureau in promoting the Finnish language in Sweden and the harmonious relations between these two member states. In other nearby countries, such as Estonia which is also seeking membership to the Union, one needed activities promoting harmonious co– existence between majority and minority languages. He suggested that the Bureau could be a structure which would enforce a European network for minority languages and was confident to find the political support needed. He also welcomed the prospect of the introduction by the European Commission of a specific legal act for the minority languages in the European Union.

Mr. BORREMANS, from the cabinet of the Minister of culture of the Communaute française of Belgium, M. Charles Pique, spoke briefly on the different situations minority languages find themselves in. He underlined the difference between those of wide expansion with stronger support structures and those of lesser expansion with more limited structures.

Bojan BREZIGAR, President of the European Bureau for Lesser used Languages, outlined in general terms the role and work of the Bureau in representing at European level the concerns of linguistic communities throughout the Union. While accepting there was no universal model applicable to all communities, there was no doubt that speakers of minority languages could learn from speakers in other areas with similar problems. Mr. Brezigar announced that the Bureau would be developing new programmes which would facilitate contact and co–operation between regional and local authorities with an interest in minority languages. The Bureau was also in the process of setting up a press agency, the main task of which would be to counteract the negative image being given to minority issues world wide. The agency will provide accurate information to news agencies on the problems and challenges facing minority language communities and their role in maintaining a common European cultural heritage and their contribution to the peace process in Europe.

Mr. Brezigar then spoke on the general situation in Europe and referred specifically to problem areas with a European dimension such as the Balkans. He stressed the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance of communities different from our own. One of the best ways to achieve this is to exchange information and experiences with other communities and learn from them where possible. He cited for example how Kosova could learn from the experiences of South Tyrol. He also spoke of 'reverse subsidiarity' where what cannot be done at local level due to reduced scale should be carried out at central level. A minimum standard of linguistic rights needs to be written down; to date at EU level only the Maastricht Treaty (article 126 on education and article 128 on culture) serve this purpose. The legal act for minority languages and cultures at present being prepared by the EU Commission is a major step in this direction.

Round–Table Discussion

The afternoon session contained an exchange of views and information between all participants. The aim of the round table was to gather suggestions and criticisms to the proposed legal act. Mr.Lenarduzzi, acting director general of DGXXII of the European Commission reminded participants that language was an aspect of citizenship which should gain recognition, be promoted and fostered. Mr. Fronia outlined the framework of the Commission's proposed legal act for minority languages which would guarantee EU action in this domain over the next five years. The main points discussed concerned the purpose, the level and the effects of future policy towards lesser used languages. A healthy discussion took place between everybody present. Mr Vallvé, MEP, President of the European Parliament Integroup for Regional or Minority Languages and cultures, explained that the number of working languages needed to be reduced. For certain topics, a second tier could exist where use could be made of our languages officially at European level. He also stressed the importance of improving communication by using minority languages in publicity materials. Ms. Achlaitner, representing the Austrian council of ministers and the Presidency of the European Union, argued that models could not always be transfered from one minority group and situation to another. However, she stressed the need for a forum at European level through which coordination and exchange of information could take place. Mr Jaschyk, from the Economic and social Committee outlined the potential added value of culture in an economic context. Anna Vari Chapalain, from the French Member State committee of the European Bureau insisted on the necessity of a common strategy in these matters, between what the Union does and what is done by minority language speakers. Delegates from the EU institutions were happy to be directly informed by those at grass–roots level while speakers themselves felt the colloquy offered them an input into future EU policy regarding their languages.

D. Breathnach

The full speeches given by the speakers can be obtained from the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Brussels Office (see address back page)

Germany ratifies European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

On 16 September 1998, Germany presented its ratification document for the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The Charter will thus come into force in Germany on 1 January 1999. Prior to this date, seven member states of the Council of Europe had ratified the Charter, namely Norway, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Croatia, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. A further eleven sates have signed the Charter so far.

The European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages came into force on 1 March 1998 in the first five states to ratify it, marking an important step towards the preservation and increased protection of regional and minority languages in Europe. Regional and minority languages have been leading a shadowy existence for many years and have been in danger of being condemned to complete insignificance by dominant languages. The successful efforts now being made on a European level, which have increased the protection of national minorities through the activities of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the Baltic Council, are also bearing fruit with the general public, who are showing an increasing interest in regional and minority languages. Because the conditions for the successful enlargement of Europe include mutual tolerance, acceptance and understanding, the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages in Europe is also a way of securing peace and enhancing democratic development.

Although the Council of Europe's framework agreement on the protection of national minorities came into force within two years of its signing and ratification by twelve states, the Charter did not come into force until after five years. The main reason for this is probably the fact that the ratification of the Charter involves the acceptance of certain specific responsibilities listed in a complex, comprehensive catalogue (protection according to part III). In contrast to the compulsory protection measures for regional or minority languages provided for in part II, part III of the Charter does not settle for general framework regulations in terms of protection. This means that the state has to examine each of its regional and minority languages in detail using the protection catalogue provided for by the Charter in order to establish a minimum of 35 commitments for these languages.

Because of the federal structure of the state, the respective responsibilities of the German federal government and the 16 Länder, including regional and local aspects, had to be taken into account in the establishment of the commitments for the different languages. The first languages to be considered as minority languages, within the meaning of the Charter, were Danish, Sorb, and Romany spoken by the German Sinti and Roma community. However, as the debate developed, it was made clear by scientists and language-based initiatives that a number of other regional and minority languages existed in Germany. Friesian and Low German were thus brought into the discussion as languages in their own right.

In Germany most of the commitments laid down in the Charter come under the responsibility of the Lander (education system, culture, media). Lengthy discussions have been held between the federal government and the Lander, along with representatives of the different language groups, to establish specific commitments. For the minority languages, Danish, Upper and Lower Sorbian, North and Sater Friesian in their respective areas and the regional languages, Lower German (in the Länder of Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein) protection is granted in part III of the Charter with 35 commitments each. Protection according to part II of the Charter is granted to Romany spoken by the German Sinti and Roma community throughout the country and the regional language, Lower Germany in the Länder of Brandenburg, North Rhine Westphalia and Sachsen-Anhalt, with commitments to general goals and principles. Germany has, however, notified the Council of Europe of the Federal Republic's personal commitment to specific regulations in part III of the Charter for Romany and Lower German in these three Lander.

It has also been established that protection according to part III of the Charter could be granted in the Land of Hessen for Romany. Since it is expected that the Charter will be ratified by other states in the future, in order to guarantee the increased protection and support of minority and regional languages, the Council of Europe will be notified of the protection according to part III of Romany in the Land of Hessen – and possibly in other Lander – in the context of a further ratification procedure.

The states are required to account for the implementation of their commitments in their reports to the Council of Europe. The first state reports are due a year after ratification. Germany's first report will therefore be due on 1 January 2000, a date which will hopefully point towards a positive future for regional and minority languages.

The growing interest in the continued existence and daily use of regional and minority languages in Europe must be encouraged, focussing on the importance of the rich variety of languages in Europe as an essential basis for European culture and the future development of a cohesive Europe. The preservation of variety in languages and cultures is not, however, simply a matter of securing the identity of members of a given language group and protecting the cultural heritage. It also helps to develop internal understanding within states and to allow all citizens to become integrated by advocating and demanding tolerance of and openness to different languages and cultures.

Rainer Krupatz
Ministry of the Interior, Germany

France announces its forthcoming signing of the European Charter

"It is expected that France will sign the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages at the beginning of the year" declared Mr Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, in a statement on 7 October. This announcement came in response to the presentation of the report drawn up by the constitutionalist, Guy Carcassonne examining the compatibility of the Charter with the French constitution. Mr Carcassonne concluded that France is in a position to adhere to 52 of the commitments put forward under conditions which are compatible with the constitution.

Certain reservations were, however, expressed regarding the interpretation of the term "group" in the Charter. According to Mr Carcassonne, it should be possible to remove all constitutional obstacles by adopting an interpretative declaration when the Charter is signed. The author pointed out that France will not, however, be able to comply with all the articles, since a number of them go against certain principles written into the constitution to a greater or lesser degree. Lionel Jospin considers this choice to be highly symbolic. "Antagonism between national unity and the plurality of regional cultures is a thing of the past," he declared. Mr Poignant's report and Lionel Jospin's statements were welcomed favourably by associations working for regional languages and cultures. The conclusions of Mr Carcassonne's report were received with greater reservation. At the request of the Republican Committee, a number of gatherings were organised on 5 December in ten French cities in support of the initiatives announced. This event was particularly successful in Britanny where about 6000 participants came together in Kemper. The aim of this campaign was to demand the signing of the Charter and the amendment of article 2 of the French constitution which, since 1992, has stipulated that "the language of the Republic is French." This amendment, advocated by Mr Poignant, is considered essential by the associations if legal restrictions are to be avoided when the Charter's measures are implemented in the future. Finally, this campaign also demanded the adoption of a legal framework in favour of regional languages.

This announcement is of considerable importance in view of the recent decision by the British government to sign the Charter and the recent ratification by Germany. This decision would mark a turning point in France after the policies enforced by Mr Jospin's predecessors. The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages is very happy with the European commitment and motivation demonstrated by Mr Lionel Jospin on this occasion and looks forward to co-operating with the French government in the future to promote the rich linguistic heritage of this country.

Yann Rivallain

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifty years ago, on 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Over the years the Universal Declaration has been the forerunner of many other declarations, conventions, charters and resolutions on various aspects of human rights – ethnic rights, minority rights, educational rights and, what is of most direct interest to us in the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages – language rights.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Article 2 of the Universal Declaration declares that , *"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."*

The Universal Declaration has been translated into hundreds of languages, including many of Europe's lesser used languages. As an NGO in special consultative status with the Social Council of the United Nations, the Bureau is proud to mark the golden jubilee of the Universal Declaration by reproducing Article 2 in a number of our languages.

[illegible] pe gevredigezhel, a leve [illegible] **Walloon** Chaskeun, sèye-t-i ome ou feume, pout
valeûr tos lès dreûts èr totes lès libèrtés qui nous sont rachou d'vins l'prézinte Dèclaràcion, èt n' pôret-on prinde nouk'
mons qu'i n'èst a câse di s'race, dè-l'coleûr di s'pè, di s'lingadje, di ço [illegible] sès-idèyes so-l'politique ou so tot
tchwès, di qué payis qu'i provint, di s'condicion d'ritche ou d'pôve, dè-l'contrêye wice qu'il a vèyou l'djou ou bin d'
minme qwè qui ç'seûye. **Irish** Tá teideal ag gach uile dhuine chun na cearta agus na saoirsí go léir atá leaghta amch
Dearbhú seo, gan idirdhealú d'aon saghas, go háirithe maidir le cine, dath, gnéas, teanga, creideamh, tuairim pholaitiúch
nó tuairim eile, bunadh náisiúnta nó sóisialta, maoin, breith nó céimíocht eile. **Sardinian** Onzi unu podet fagher baler
sos deretos e totu sas libertades proclamadas in sa Declaratzione presente, sena distintzione peruna, mescamente de ratza,
colore, de [illegible]

Statement from CROMBEL on the Poignant Report

During its last meeting on Wednesday 30 September, the Romance Section of the Belgian Member State Committee (CROMBEL) showed a great interest in the report on "Regional languages and cultures" which was drawn up by Bernard Poignant at the request of the French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

CROMBEL is strongly embraces the conclusions of this report which defend a positive policy in France towards regional languages and cultures, as well as a number of other fundamental decisions such as the signing of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, decentralisation (which does not undermine the importance of the state) and multilingualism.

However, CROMBEL regrets that the actual subject of the report contains certain inaccuracies and mistakes and considers that the confusion created by the Poignant report between *regional languages* and *regional French* with reference to the langues d'oil is particularly regrettable. As far as their origin is concerned, the former, like French, are languages which developed from the Latin spoken in Gaul after the Roman conquest, whilst the latter are variations of French spoken throughout the French–speaking world. There is no direct link between regional languages and regional French, at the very most there is a certain interference. The "real" langues d'oil are admittedly endangered nowadays but they have not disappeared (as is stated on p. 8 of the report), neither have they "become regional variations of French" (p. 9 of the report).

Although the development of a positive policy towards "regional" langues d'oil in France has been favoured for a long time, the confusion with regional variations of French (which are not "languages" as distinct from standard French) goes against scientific fact and the long–standing efforts made by promoters of a European linguistic heritage. This is particularly true of the French community in Belgium which has granted official status to the regional languages spoken in its geographical areas of influence on an equal basis with French. This applies, for example, to langues d'oil such as Champenois, Picard, Lorrain and Walloon. These languages are spoken both in France and Belgium, which is why CROMBEL, not simply wishing to interfere in matters pertaining to a third country, was keen to highlight these essential details.

J-L. Fauconnier

Secure Status for Gaelic in Scotland?

Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG), the main Gaelic development organisation in Scotland, submitted a report to the Scottish Office in December 1997 outlining the case for special legal protection for the Gaelic language. Entitled, "Inbhe Thèarainte dhan Ghàidhlig/Secure Status for Gaelic", the report recommends that special legislation be passed to provide the legally enforceable entitlement to Gaelic-medium education, the right to use Gaelic in the court system, the creation of a cohesive and properly funded Gaelic-medium broadcasting service, and the preparation by local authorities and other public bodies of Gaelic [illegible] which commit them to the provision of a [illegible] Gaelic medium services. The report contains [illegible] of recommendations with respect to the place of Gaelic in the new Scottish parliament. CnaG argues that the [illegible] should establish a basic principle of equal validity for Gaelic and English in Scotland, along the lines of the [illegible] given to Welsh by virtue of the Welsh language Act 1993. The report was welcomed by the then Scottish Office Minister with responsibility for Gaelic, Mr. Brian Wilson. In the course of the debate on the Scotland Bill, the legislation which creates Scotland's new parliament, Mr Wilson was quoted in "The Scotsman" newspaper as having said that he was keen on providing legislative protection for Gaelic and hoped that Gaels would not have to wait until the [illegible] of the new Parliament for such legislation to come into being. Since then however, Mr Wilson has been silent about specific legislation dealing with Gaelic and, instead, the CnaG demands focusing on more specific areas, particularly in the area of Gaelic-medium education. In June last, it was announced that the British government would soon be signing and ratifying the Council of Europe European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and designating Gaelic as one of the languages which will receive special protection under part III thereof. While Gaelic organisations welcomed this news they also warned that the Charter was not, in itself, a substitute for the [illegible] [illegible] about which they are [illegible]. Mr Campbell, Chief Executive of Comunn na Gàidhlig, described the decision of the British government as "an historic and important act". Both Mr Campbell and Rob Dunbar, Chairman of Comunn na Gàidhlig's Working Group on Secure Status, also noted that the "Charter does [illegible] [illegible] of Gaelic [illegible] does it necessarily mean an immediate expansion in the range or depth of Gaelic-medium services". [illegible] fundamental to the Gaelic community. CnaG will [illegible] the new minister with responsibility for Gaelic, Calum MacDonald, MP for the Western Isles and [illegible] Gaelic speaker [illegible]

Rob Dunbar

Chairman CnaG, Working Group on Secure Status

International Conference on Language Legislation in Dublin

L – R: Padraig Mac Donncha, President, Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge; Bojan Brezigar, President, European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages; Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister of State, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Ireland; and Dr. Victor Goldbloom, Commissioner of Official Languages, Canada, at the International Conference on Language Legislation.

The first International Conference on Language Legislation was held in Dublin, Ireland on the 14-18 October 1998. The Conference was organised by Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, the co-ordinating body for voluntary Irish language organisations, and was supported financially by the European Commission. The aim of the conference was to study the structure and content of language legislation in various countries and to look at the structure and role of statutory agencies responsible for the implementation of language legislation.

The conference was organised in response to the Irish Government's proposal to enact a language act that will set out and clarify the rights of Irish language speakers and the obligations of public bodies in relation to the Irish language. The organisers felt that preparations for the enactment of a legislative framework for the Irish language should include a careful analysis of the nature and effect of existing language legislation elsewhere.

The conference was opened by Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., The Minister for State with responsibility for the Irish Language and the main address was given by Dr. Victor Goldbloom, Commisioner for Official Languages, Canada.

One of the principal, underlying themes, raised virtually without exception in all of the presentations to the conference, was the need for the effective implementation of any language policy, at both national and international level. Any legal provision made, whether constitutional or legislative, is meaningless unless accompanied by a firm commitment to the translation of policy into practice.

In this context, the construction of binding legal bases, for both existing and proposed language legislation, is particularly important, it is only from this that a corresponding duty of implementation can be derived. One justification discussed was the idea that the preservation or survival of regional and minority languages suffices as an end in itself, within the broader goal of the preservation of linguistic and cultural diversity.

The concept of establishing equality between the different language groups in a state was also highlighted, cited, for example, by Minister Ó Cuív in his opening address. In this way, the duty of implementation is linked directly to the fundamental rights of the speakers of regional and minority languages.

The most appropriate basis for an enforceable duty of implementation is without doubt a topic requiring further reflection and deliberation. In particular, the capacity of language policy to bind the private sector, as well as state bodies, will need to be addressed.

The Minister also highlighted the need for an independent enforcement procedure and the conference heard, at first hand, from Dr Goldbloom about the Canadian experience in this context. Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge has proposed to the Irish Government that an office similar to the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada should be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Irish langauge act. The success rate of the Canadian Office, in respect to the correction of deficiencies that have led to complaints, i particularly encouraging. One particular successes of Dr. Goldbloom's during his term as Commissioner has been the development of a proactive role for his Office, from what was initially interpreted as a monitoring role. The commissioning of independent, empirical surveys by his Office have been particularly valuable. Dr. Goldbloom referred in particular to a study which showed that the argument usually raised *against* bilingual initiatives, that of prohibitive costs, does not stand up to objective, analytical investigation.

Joe Mac Donnacha/ Niamh Nic Shuibhne

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Competitiveness and European integration in the noblest sense of the term

A double CD by the Slovenian choir of Austrian Carinthia, Rož.

Bringing together 26 languages and cultures, *Songs of hope* and *Humiliated and offended – songs of the oppressed people*, the double CD which was recently presented by the Slovenian choir of Austrian Carinthia, *Roz*, blends in the highest artistic quality classical choral singing with a certain vision of European integration. The first CD is a collection of four liturgical songs, meditation songs in Hebrew, Arabic, Slavon and a missa créole in Latin.

The second CD gives life to the concept of diversity and allows us to discover and appreciate its cultural dimension. It features 22 popular songs from the repertoires of the Frisians, Irish people in Northern Ireland, Scots, Basques, Corsicans, Ladins, Furlans, Slovenes from Venetia and Frioul, Croats from Austrian Burgenland, Hungarians from Transsylvania, Macedonians from Pirin in Bulgaria, Armenians, Palestinians, Kurds, Erythreans, autochthonous populations of South Africa, the Philippines, Australia, South and North America and from the Inuits and the Roms.

Produced by an amateur choir made up of farmers, the quality of this double CD matches that of larger professional choirs from the prestigious places of cultures in Europe, despite their heavy subsidies. This recording is a must for all lovers of choral singing and demonstrates once more that communities, often intentionally referred to as 'small', have a great human potential which is yet to be discovered.

This CD is also a precious record for those who, in their struggle for tolerance, pluralism and the right to be different, look for comfort and moral support. This work, put together by a traditional Slovenian choir, made up of farmers and ordinary workers, proves that the cause for diversity as a project for the future in Europe is a justified one. It demonstrates that an arrogant geostrategy, which kills diversity, makes us all uniform, and deprives us of our humanity, our *joie de vivre* and our democracy can be replaced by a concrete alternative which is alive and rich. If we simply allow it to survive, we will find in this cultural diversity which is still alive although often threatened in the Europe of the 15 and beyond, the ferment used by the "great" to compete against each other. Vienna 1900, Paris, London or New York, all capital cities of "culture" and even "progress" only became what they are now or are boasting to be with the crucial help of the "small" ones, always forced to call themselves into question and to develop new visions. This is true for ethnic minorities and oppressed social groups. The humblest answer to this, which is also the noblest, consists of taking part in the fair competition at the heart of what some people call European integration.

Bojan–Ilija Schnabl, Assistant of Harald Ettl at the European Parliament

Rož: Pesem upanja – Lied der Hoffnung, Ponižani in razžaljeni, pesmi zatiranih narodov – Erniedrigte und Beleidigte, Lieder unterdrückter Völker, ISBN 3– 221–13082–1. Distribution: Extraplatte, A–1094 Wien, Pf. 22; tel.: +43–1– 3101084, fax: +43–1–3100324, e–mail: extraplatte@blackbox.at.

STUDY VISIT TO THE SÁMIS IN NORWAY

The reindeer people are fighting for their land and water rights

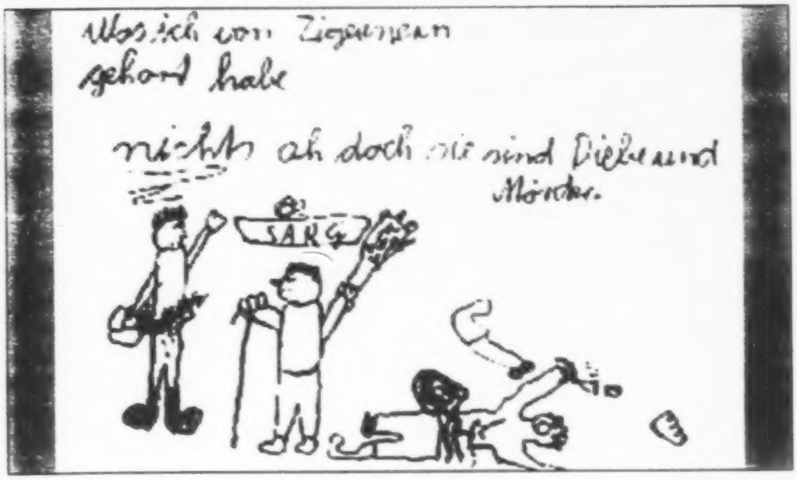
In April of last year the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, together with the European Commission, organized its first study visit to the Samis in Norway: a community of about 40 to 60 thousand people, speaking three main dialects. Norway does not belong to the European Union but, being an EFTA country, can participate in most of its cultural programmes and thus also in the activities funded by the EU for the promotion of minority languages. The study visit represented the first opportunity for EBLUL to establish contacts with the lively Sámi community in the Finnmark region.

14 participants (representing the Basque, Catalan, Frisian, Friulian, Gaelic, Irish, Rom, Slovene, Sorb and Welsh languages) travelled well above the Arctic polar circle to Alta, Karasjok/Kárášjohka and Kautokeino/Guovdageaidnu, where they visited the main Sámi political, administrative, cultural and educational institutions. They also met with those Sámis who are most engaged in the safeguard of their language. Here they were told of the historic challenges that the Sámis have had to face and admire their often innovative and courageous approaches to the problems of language promotion. By comparing difficulties and solutions, disadvantages and results, they could then look at their own communities with fresh and wiser eyes.

The hottest issue among the Sámis in Norway at the moment is the question of land and water rights. At the beginning of the century, at the height of its assimilation policy, the Norwegian government passed a law preventing those unable to speak or write Norwegian from owning land. This meant severe losses for the Sámis. But after decades of darkness and a tragic shrinking in the use of the Sámi language, during 1979–1981 a general uprising against a water–exploitation project (the building of a dam on the Alta river) stirred the Sámis into recognizing their common linguistic and cultural identity once more. The question of land ownership and exploitation, closely interwoven with the identity and survival issue, has since become the core of the political debate. Which degree of autonomy and independence has then to be granted to the Sámis in the administration of their land? The answer should be able to guarantee the Sámis their historical rights, but without forgetting the territorial, democratically elected and representative institutions where the Sámis do not always have a majority today. The Sámi Parliament has been given two years to come up with an official position. All European minorities can in the meantime learn from the debate going on in "Sápmi" and Norway and how complex and historically intricated issues can be dealt with democratically, based on mutual trust and respect on both sides.

Ivana Suhadolc

[illegible]



An interesting combination of research and practice in a book about Sinti and Roma children in German schools

Review: Schattenkämpfe, Rüdiger Wurr and Sylvia Trabing-Butzmann, Agimos Verlag, Kiel/Germany, 1998

"What do I know about gypsies? Nothing... oh yes – they're thieves and murderers." This naive remark was made by a German child in the Land of Schleswig-Holstein in response to a survey conducted in schools on children and young people aged between 10 and 21 and students aged between 18 and 36 in social education.

The results of the survey are disheartening. The overall attitude towards Sinti and Roma populations is extremely negative, knowledge of these minorities is minimal and negative prejudices and unrealistic romantic clichés abound.

This context must be taken into account when considering the education of Sinti and Roma children. This situation arises frequently in many parts of Germany, with Sinti and Roma children being sent to special schools at an early age, which means that they are excluded from the normal education system, or at least have great difficulty in entering it.

The Schattenkämpfe book includes examples from all parts of Germany where attempts are being made to improve the school situation. The results are clear: in cases where the Sinti and/or Roma populations have been in charge of projects themselves, or at least played an active part in them, clear improvements have been observed.

The combination of empirical investigations and specific examples, together with a historical overview of the situation of Sinti and Roma populations in the Land of Schleswig-Holstein and an introduction to Romany as a vehicle for cultural identity, makes this book relevant outside Schleswig-Holstein and even Germany.

Brigitte Alfter Flensborg Avis

***MGO – Mercator Guide to Organisations providing Information on lesser-used Languages*, ed. R. S. Tjeerdsma, Fryske Academy, Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, 1998. ISBN 90-6171-857-0.**

This guide is a collection of associations and organisations working in the area of lesser-used languages in Europe. It is in the form of information sheets which present the private and public institutions and associations from which information may be obtained on autochtonous minority language communities within the European Union. The entries are classified by European Union member states and divided into sections on the different linguistic communities. This fourth edition of the Mercator guide has been completely updated to include information on over 500 organisations in the member states of the EU, as well as those in Switzerland, Malta and Norway. Since it was first published in 1990, this guide has proved an essential source of information for the general public, journalists, researchers, teachers, political leaders and, more generally, any organisation requiring information on lesser-used language communities in Europe.

MGO is published in English.
Contact: Mercator Education, Postbus 54,
8900 AB Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, the Netherlands.
Tel.: +31-58-2131414,
Fax: +31-58-2131406.

Bureau Publications

COMPENDIUM

***Compendium of Projects promoting autochthonous Minority Languages in the European Union financed by the European Commission in 1995 and 1996*, Zoe Bray, European Bureau for lesser used Languages, Brussels, 1998. ISBN 9074851–53–3 and 90–74851–54–1.**

In 1996, the Directorate–General XXII of the European Commission (Education, Training and Youth) financed more than 150 projects promoting regional or minority languages and their cultures in the fields of education, pedagogy, language standardization, media and cultural activities. In two volumes, the compendium describes the content of the projects for each language community. Its aim is to spread the experience accumulated by the projects and allow their results to be shared. Associations and organisations involved in the promotion of minority languages will be able to use it as a source of information and a stimulus for the development of new ideas. Published in French with sections in English. 117 and 120 pages.

***Funding possibilities for minority language groups*, Zoe Bray, European Bureau for lesser used Languages, Brussels, 1998. ISBN 90–74851–56–8.**

Besides the budget line (B3 1006) specifically devoted to minority language in the European budget, there are many other European programmes or initiatives which can be of direct or indirect interest for linguistic minorities. To guide them through the various opportunities available, this guide makes an inventory of programmes in the following areas : culture, training, youth, media, research, employment, sport, technologies, tourism, urbanisation. The objectives, conditions of eligibility, deadlines as well as contact addresses are given for each programme. A list of private foundations, together with a description of their domains of activity complements this collection of funding possibilities from different institutions. This guide is an essential tool in increasing activities amongst linguistic communities at a European level. Published in English. **59 pages. 5 Euros**

***Brittany, a language in search of a future*, Per Denez, European language series 7, EBLUL, Brussels, 1998. ISBN 90–74851–58–4.**

This booklet depicts the cultural history of the Breton language since its implantation on the continent from the 5th century onwards to its present challenges. The author describes the main stages of the evolution of the language, the many–faceted Breton culture and actions for its renewal. Abandoned by the elite from the 10th century on, threatened by the increasing centralisation of the French kingdom and of the Republic, the Breton language and culture have shown a growing dynamism and creativity for over a century. Will this suffice to guarantee a future for a language increasingly threatened by the absence of official protection? *Breton, a Language in search of a Future* is an essential booklet for anyone in need of a precise and complete overview of the situation of Breton and of all the efforts undertaken to promote it. Published in English and French 37 pages. 5 Euros

***Vade–Mecum, a guide to legal, political and other official international documents pertaining to the lesser used languages of Europe*, 2nd edition, Dónall Ó Riagain (ed.), European Bureau for lesser used Languages, Dublin, 1998. ISBN 1870675–12–6**

The European Bureau for lesser used Languages first published its Vade–Mecum in 1994 to bring together the most important legal, political and other multilateral, official texts relevant to the promotion of Europe's lesser used minority/regional languages. This second entirely revised edition (in English only) includes a number of essential additional texts adopted since 1994. A section on European and other international organisations has been added to this edition together with a list of interesting Web sites. The texts are divided into sections devoted to each organisation which has published relevant documents in this field. The Vade–Mecum makes these official documents available to the public in an easily accessible and attractive format. It is a useful reference tool which also makes it possible to see the larger picture of what might initially be seen as unrelated developments. **120 pages. 10 Euros**

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages seeks to conserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Union, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland, and an AI in Belgium. It works in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe, the UN, UNESCO and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the European Commission, the Irish Government, the Government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the Germanophone Community in Belgium. Rent-free accommodation is provided for its Brussels office by the French-speaking Community in Belgium.

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Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues

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Dans ce numéro

Colloque annuel sur les langues moins répandues

Ratification de la Charte par l'Allemagne

Un statut garanti pour le gaélique?

Visite d'étude dans la communauté [illegible]

Signature de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires par les États membres

Allemagne	[illegible]
Autriche	Malte
Chypre	Norvège
Croatie	Pays-Bas
Danemark	Roumanie
Espagne	Slovénie
Finlande	Suisse
Hongrie	Ukraine
Liechtenstein	
Luxembourg	

Ratification de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires par les États membres

Allemagne	
Croatie	
Finlande	
Hongrie	
Liechtenstein	
Pays-Bas	
Norvège	
Suisse	

La signature de la charte ou de toute convention de ce type implique un accord avec les principes qu'elle énonce et doit normalement aboutir à sa ratification.

Pour plus de renseignements
www.coe.fr/eng/legaltxt/148e.htm
www.coe.fr/fr/txtjur/148f.htm

Proposition d'une base légale en faveur des langues moins répandues par la Commission

En septembre dernier, des intervenants issus de régions où sont parlées des langues moins répandues se sont associés à des responsables de la Commission européenne et aux membres de certaines institutions européennes pour discuter de la meilleure voie à suivre pour promouvoir les langues moins répandues de l'Union européenne. M. Fronia, en qualité de représentant de la Commission, a lu un discours au nom de Mme Edith Cresson, pour qui le temps est désormais venu de convaincre les millions de locuteurs de langues moins répandues qu'ils participent au même titre que les autres à la citoyenneté européenne. Concrètement, la Commission a annoncé son intention de mettre en place un programme pluriannuel en faveur des langues minoritaires. Le colloque a été organisé par la Commission et le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues. Le texte de Mme. Cresson est reproduit ci-dessous.

Le Colloque du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues se déroule certes chaque année, mais celui qui nous réunit aujourd'hui a des objectifs et des ambitions bien spécifiques. Le Bureau existe maintenant depuis dix-sept ans. Il a réalisé un travail unique pour la réalisation d'une coopération et d'une solidarité nouvelle et irremplaçable entre toutes les communautés linguistiques de l'Union européenne. Il a permis à certaines communautés de réaliser qu'elles n'étaient pas seules et qu'elles pouvaient profiter de l'expérience développée par d'autres pour résoudre des problèmes qui leur paraissaient parfois insolubles. Son colloque annuel a œuvré à la construction de cette solidarité, permettant des rencontres et des échanges d'expériences directes.

Il faut maintenant passer à l'étape suivante et convaincre l'extérieur de la nécessité d'action en faveur de ces langues parfois menacées. Aujourd'hui, il ne s'agit plus seulement d'une rencontre entre les différents membres du Bureau. La Commission a voulu se faire rencontrer toutes les institutions européennes et des représentants à haut niveau des communautés linguistiques minoritaires. Pourquoi cette rencontre ?

Le temps est venu pour l'Europe de montrer son intérêt pour des citoyens européens qui parfois peuvent se sentir mis à l'écart du grand mouvement européen. Des millions d'Européens utilisent tous les jours une langue régionale et minoritaire, c'est-à-dire une langue différente de la majorité de la population de leur pays. Cette différence peut parfois être ressentie également au niveau européen. Nous voulons convaincre ces millions de personnes qu'elles comptent au même titre que toutes les autres et qu'elles participent à la citoyenneté européenne. A ce titre, la Commission veut proposer un programme pluriannuel pour la promotion et le maintien des langues régionales et minoritaires. Cela n'est pas une tâche facile. Nous avons besoin de connaître les besoins et les souhaits des communautés linguistiques minoritaires.

Que vivez-vous tous les jours ? Quels problèmes et quels besoins avez-vous pour maintenir vos langues vivantes ? Que pensez-vous ou croyez-vous que l'Europe peut vous apporter ?

Comme répondant, nous avons réuni toutes les institutions communautaires pour essayer de voir toutes les possibilités d'actions au niveau européen. Toutes ont une fonction différente, des pouvoirs et des moyens d'action différents, mais un même intérêt à rendre effectif le concept de citoyenneté européenne.

La table ronde de cet après-midi permettra au Parlement, au Conseil, à la Commission, au Comité économique et social et au Comité des régions, d'exprimer leurs positions et leurs actions dans le domaine des minorités linguistiques. Vous pourrez enrichir leurs interventions de vos commentaires et de vos remarques, et la discussion qui s'ensuivra se révélera, je l'espère, très fructueuse. Nos réponses ne correspondront sans doute pas exactement à vos attentes, mais nous sommes ici également pour vous expliquer le cadre dans lequel notre action se limite, le travail déjà effectué, et surtout nos projets pour l'avenir. Nous souhaitons voir ressortir de ces échanges d'opinions et d'informations des pistes pour nous aider à construire une coopération efficace entre les différents acteurs ici présents. Sans elle, toute action est vouée à l'échec.

Pour commencer, le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, avec lequel la Commission a organisé ce

1998 aura été une année capitale dans l'histoire de la politique européenne en faveur des langues minoritaires. De nombreux événements sont survenus dans ce domaine au cours de cette année, pas toujours positifs, mais qui entraîneront sans aucun doute des avancées importantes pour nos langues dans les prochaines années. Ces événements sont survenus pour la plupart à la suite de décisions prises à la fois par le Conseil de l'Europe et l'Union européenne.

Deux documents importants émanant du Conseil de l'Europe sont entrés en vigueur au cours de l'année passée : *la Convention cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales* et *la Charte européenne des langues régionales et/ou minoritaires*. La Convention-cadre est essentiellement un document de recommandation et traite spécifiquement de questions liées à la protection des langues, leur position dans l'enseignement et les médias, la signalisation bilingue, etc. Au 31 décembre 1998, la Convention avait été signée par vingt-quatre Etats (dont sept Etats membres de l'UE).

La Charte européenne, de nature plus technique, contient des recommandations claires devant être mises en œuvre par la suite; elle a rencontré plus de difficultés que la Convention pour sa ratification. Cependant, le nombre de signatures minimum requis (cinq) pour une ratification, a été dépassé pour la première fois et s'élevait à huit à la fin de l'année, dont trois Etats membres : la Finlande, les Pays-Bas et l'Allemagne. Il convient d'ajouter que trois autres Etats membres, la France, le Royaume-Uni et la Suède ont annoncé une signature prochaine de la Charte. Ces évolutions autorisent un certain optimisme et permettent de prévoir avec confiance qu'à l'avenir, la Convention du Conseil de l'Europe et la Charte constitueront de fait les standards de référence minimum en matière de droits linguistiques dans l'Union européenne et une base solide pour le développement de politiques en faveur de la promotion et du développement de nos langues.

Comme je l'ai précédemment indiqué, les nouvelles en provenance de l'Union européenne l'an passé n'ont pas toutes été positives, en raison de la suppression de la ligne budgétaire B3-1006 qui avait permis de financer les projets mis en place par nos communautés depuis quinze ans. Une décision de la Cour européenne de justice relative aux lignes budgétaires a interdit à la Commission et au Parlement de maintenir les lignes pour lesquelles il n'existait pas de base légale spécifique. La Commission a entrepris de mettre en place une base légale pour les langues régionales et minoritaires et Mme Cresson, Commissaire européen, a annoncé à l'occasion d'un colloque organisé le 22 septembre dernier, qu'un programme spécifique et une ligne budgétaire consacrés à nos langues pourraient très prochainement être mis en place. Dans le même temps, le Parlement européen et la Commission européenne ont résolu les problèmes financiers concernant la mise en réseau et les contacts entre les communautés de langues moins répandues sur le terrain, facilités par des structures telles que le BELMR et MERCATOR. Ils ont inclus deux éléments différents à la proposition de budget pour l'Union européenne: une ligne budgétaire spécifique couvrant les activités du Bureau européen et des trois centres MERCATOR et la mise à disposition d'une somme de 2,5 millions d'Euros pour le travail de préparation d'un programme futur en faveur des langues régionales et minoritaires. Ceci signifie pour les locuteurs de langues moins répandues de l'Union européenne qu'il n'y aura pas de bouleversements majeurs, du point de vue financier, au cours de l'année 1999. Nous exprimons donc notre gratitude au Parlement européen (Intergroupe, Comité culturel et Comité budgétaire) pour son soutien déterminé et à la Commission européenne (DGXXII et Commissaire aux finances, M. Liikanen). Dans la perspective de l'acceptation du nouveau programme, attendons-nous à des évolutions positives pour nos langues et cultures.

Bojan Brezigar, Presiden

Discours de Mme Cresson (suite)

Colloque, va nous exposer son travail et ses activités pendant l'année écoulée, cela par l'intermédiaire de son Président, Monsieur Brezigar, ici présent.
Les orientations et la stratégie du Bureau pour le futur nous seront également dévoilées. Je tiens à souligner que l'action de la Commission ne se limite pas au financement du Bureau, dont les activités sont primordiales pour toutes les communautés linguistiques européennes.

Edith Cresson
Commissaire européen

Depuis 1983, la ligne budgétaire confiée à la Commission par le Parlement européen a subventionné d'innombrables projets en provenance de toutes les communautés linguistiques minoritaires de l'Union européenne.
En 1997, presque 170 projets ont reçu un cofinancement communautaire, des projets de toutes origines et pour des activités très variées, mais aussi d'ambitions très diverses. De la classe d'une école à un vaste projet régional, de la petite association de village au partenariat d'université, la diversité a été le maître mot de l'action de la Commission. Education, médias, aménagement linguistique, renforcement de la coopération européenne par le biais de visites d'études dans les communautés, réseau d'information Mercator…
Si les moyens budgétaires sont restés modestes à l'échelle de l'Europe, la demande de la part des communautés a été considérable, et elle ne cesse de croître. Il nous faut répondre à ces attentes, et les moyens actuels n'y suffisent pas.
L'impact de l'action a été réel, et il a été souligné dans un récent rapport d'évaluation de l'action communautaire. S'il est difficilement calculable économiquement, l'appui de l'Europe a contribué à renforcer l'identité culturelle et la confiance en soi de communautés souvent sujettes aux doutes.
Il faut faire encore plus … par quels moyens … à vous de nous aider à les identifier et à définir leur mise en œuvre.
L'année écoulée a été riche en événements. Le Bureau a vécu une réorganisation qui lui a donné encore plus de vigueur, mais qui a nécessité beaucoup d'implication et de travail. Mais surtout, comme vous le savez tous, la ligne budgétaire finançant l'action de la Commission pour la promotion et la sauvegarde des langues régionales et minoritaires a été suspendue. Cependant, une telle situation n'était pas acceptable : cesser du jour au lendemain toute l'aide communautaire pour les langues régionales et minoritaires, c'était remettre en cause 15 ans de travail ! Aussi les institutions communautaires se sont rencontrées dans un trilogue réunissant le Conseil, le Parlement et la Commission, et elles ont trouvé une solution pragmatique pour résoudre ce problème crucial. A la suite d'une étude individuelle des cas soulevés par la suspension, la plupart des activités pour 1998 pourront être financées.
Pour le futur, la Commission se soumettra à l'arrêt de la Cour de Justice en proposant une base légale pour l'action en faveur des langues régionales et minoritaires. En effet, le travail de la Commission se doit de rester dans un cadre légal, et l'arrêt de la Cour du 12 mai 1998 a défini les conditions d'existence des lignes budgétaires du budget communautaire. La ligne budgétaire B3-1006 n'ayant pas de base légale autre que les commentaires du Parlement ne pouvait pas subsister sous son ancienne forme.
Mais plutôt qu'une catastrophe, cette situation a donné un nouvel élan à l'action communautaire. Notre volonté et nos efforts visent à la proposition d'un programme pluriannuel destiné aux langues régionales et minoritaires.
L'ancienne action ne pouvait suffire à répondre aux besoins exprimés. Ce nouveau programme doit avoir plus d'ambition et ne pas être une simple continuation mais un renouvellement en profondeur du travail effectué par la Commission.
Vous savez maintenant ce que nous attendons de vous. Je suis sûre que vous êtes les personnes les plus aptes à nous apporter une aide inestimable.

Edith Cresson
Membre de la Commission responsable de l'innovation, de l'éducation, de la formation et de la jeunesse

A l'issue du discours de Mme Cresson, une série d'experts ont apporté leur contribution

Luciano CAVERI, député, Vallée d'Aoste, Italie, a donné un aperçu de la situation linguistique en Italie, qu'on peut qualifier de "mitigée". Il a expliqué que malgré l'article 6 de la Constitution de la République, garantissant une protection des minorités linguistiques, aucune législation dont pouvait bénéficier concrètement les locuteurs de langues moins répandues n'était en place actuellement. Ceci est particulièrement préjudiciable aux plus petites communautés linguistiques. Un projet de loi est actuellement en cours de discussion à la Chambre des députés italienne mais selon M. Caveri, ce texte, qui n'a toujours pas été confirmé par le Sénat est trop faible et repose sur trop de compromis pour répondre de manière significative aux besoins des locuteurs de langues minoritaires. Sur le plan régional, il s'est cependant montré plus optimiste et a décrit la situation linguistique dans certaines régions telles que le Sud-Tyrol et la Vallée d'Aoste comme un modèle idéal pour le reste de l'Europe. Il a défendu avec ardeur l'idée d'une constitution fédérale qui est la meilleure solution pour les minorités linguistiques en Italie. Au niveau européen, un grand travail doit être réalisé pour mettre en place une sorte de «mécanisme de garantie» qui permettrait aux locuteurs de ces communautés linguistiques d'accéder directement à la Cour européenne de Justice et la Cour européenne des Droits de l'Homme.

Marianne TIDICK, ex-ministre de l'Education, de la Recherche et de la Culture du Schleswig-Holstein, Allemagne, Vice-présidente du Centre européen pour les questions de minorités a poursuivi sur le thème du fédéralisme et apporté une nuance en expliquant que si les locuteurs de langues moins répandues pouvaient parfois être mieux pris en charge au sein d'un système fédéral, tel que l'Allemagne, ceci pouvait également conduire à certaines confusions. Elle a cité l'exemple des discussions intervenues au moment de la modification de la constitution allemande suite à la réunification. Il fallut alors décider quelles minorités linguistiques bénéficieraient d'une protection par l'intermédiaire de la nouvelle constitution. Pour les Danois et les Sorabes, un consensus a été atteint, à la différence des Sinti et Roma. Les Sociaux-démocrates et les Verts étaient largement en faveur de leur inclusion tandis que les partis conservateurs ont exprimé leur opposition et estimé qu'ils pouvaient recevoir une protection par l'intermédiaire d'une législation régionale. A l'issue de ce débat, il a été décidé que les Sinti et Roma seraient pris en compte au cours de la prochaine modification de la législation du Schleswig-Holstein où ils résident depuis des siècles. L'opposition conservatrice de la région s'est opposée à ce projet estimant qu'il s'agissait d'une question nationale et qu'elle devait être réglée au moyen de la constitution nationale. La discussion revenait à son point de départ !

Mme Tidick a également fait référence à l'accord de Bonn-Copenhagen qui garantit une protection aux locuteurs de langues minoritaires de part et d'autre de la frontière germano-danoise. Elle a également évoqué le Centre européen pour les questions de minorité, basé à Flensburg, qui étudie l'impact économique du bilinguisme, tout particulièrement dans les régions frontalières. En conclusion, elle a rappelé aux délégués que d'importants défis se profilaient à l'horizon : de nouveaux Etats s'apprêtent à entrer dans l'Union et le traitement des minorités sera leur premier test en matière d'évolution démocratique et de maturité. Elle a néanmoins tenu à rappeler à l'assemblée que par le passé, l'Union européenne n'a pas toujours eu une attitude irréprochable vis à vis des minorités.

En qualité de représentant du ministère de la Culture de Catalogne, **Miquel STRUBELL**, Departement de Cultura, Generalitat de Catalunya, a décrit deux des événements majeurs survenus en 1998 pour le catalan : la promulgation d'une loi par le Parlement catalan afin de remplacer la loi linguistique de 1983 et la promulgation d'une loi par le parlement valencien mettant en place le Conseil de la langue valencienne. Ces deux lois contribueront à assurer le maintien et la normalisation de la langue. Si le catalan est dans une position relativement favorable, comparé à d'autres langues minoritaires, l'introduction d'une nouvelle législation n'en est pas moins importante pour confirmer cette évolution positive.

D'une manière plus générale, M. Strubell a souligné les deux activités principales du gouvernement concernant la langue : soutien aux différentes initiatives et poursuite d'une politique de discrimination positive afin de permettre à chacun d'exercer librement ses droits linguistiques. Il a également mentionné l'accord récent entre Microsoft et les gouvernements basque et catalan pour fournir une version de Windows 98 dans ces langues. Il a poursuivi en expliquant que les garanties pour la protection de la langue devaient évoluer parallèlement aux besoins des locuteurs. La nouvelle loi linguistique répond à ces évolutions en introduisant de nouveaux éléments, tels que les quotas de films doublés dans les cinémas et un pourcentage minimum de programmes et de musiques en catalan sur les radios publiques et commerciales. En ce qui concerne le valencien, un rapport rédigé par le Consell Valencià de Cultura a été adopté par le Parlement valencien sous forme de loi. Elle prévoit la création d'un organisme officiel de décision dans le domaine linguistique qui déterminera la politique linguistique dans la Communauté de Valence, où les besoins linguistiques ne sont pas nécessairement les mêmes qu'en Catalogne. Tout en rappelant que le gouvernement catalan n'a pas pour vocation d'intervenir dans les affaires de la Communauté de Valence, M. Strubell a insisté sur la volonté de son gouvernement de coopérer dans l'intérêt de tous. M. Strubell a attiré l'attention des participants sur un paradoxe concernant le catalan au niveau européen : tandis que l'Union européenne peut signer des accords en catalan avec Andorre (où le catalan est la langue officielle), les contribuables catalans dans l'Union européenne n'y sont pas autorisés.

Henri LAX, membre du Parlement finlandais et président de l'Assemblée suédoise de Finlande, a évoqué la question des structures consacrées à nos langues et a présenté la situation en Finlande où de nombreuses structures de ce type existent dont peut bénéficier la langue suédoise. La constitution finlandaise place le finnois et le suédois sur un pied d'égalité et des lois linguistiques détaillées réglementent les droits des locuteurs de suédois. La diversité culturelle constituant une des clefs de voûte de l'Union européenne, il faut cependant aller plus loin et mettre en place une structure pour les locuteurs de langues minoritaires à travers l'Union. La mise en place d'un réseau européen pour les langues minoritaires revêt une importance particulière pour les communautés linguistiques les plus fragiles. Il a salué le travail déjà effectué par le Bureau pour la promotion du finnois en Suède et des relations harmonieuses entre des Etats membres tels que la Finlande et la Suède. D'autres pays voisins, tels que l'Estonie – pays candidat à l'Union européenne – ont besoin d'initiatives pour promouvoir la coexistence harmonieuse entre langues majoritaires et minoritaires. M. Lax a suggéré que le Bureau soit la structure chargée de développer un réseau européen pour les langues minoritaires et s'est montré confiant pour l'obtention du soutien politique nécessaire. Il a également salué la perspective d'une adoption par la Commission européenne d'un acte légal spécifique en faveur des langues minoritaires dans l'Union européenne.

M. BORREMANS, attaché au cabinet du ministre de la Culture de la Communauté française de Belgique, M. Charles Picqué, a évoqué brièvement la situation dans laquelle se trouvaient les différentes langues minoritaires en Belgique. Il a souligné la différence entre les langues bénéficiant d'un large essor et de structures d'appui plus importantes et celles qui connaissent un développement moindre et sont dotées de structures plus limitées.

Bojan BREZIGAR, Président du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues a donné une vue d'ensemble du rôle et du travail du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues pour relayer à l'échelon européen les préoccupations des communautés linguistiques à travers l'Union européenne. Tout en reconnaissant qu'il n'existait pas de modèle universel applicable à toutes les communautés, il ne fait selon lui aucun doute que les locuteurs de langues moins répandues peuvent apprendre beaucoup des locuteurs d'autres régions rencontrant des problèmes similaires. M. Brezigar a annoncé que le Bureau allait développer de nouveaux programmes pour faciliter les contacts et la coopération entre les autorités régionales et locales ayant un intérêt pour les langues minoritaires. Le Bureau procède également à la mise en place d'une agence de presse dont la tâche principale sera de contrebalancer l'image négative associée aux questions de minorités à l'échelle mondiale. L'agence fournira des informations précises aux agences de presse sur les problèmes et les défis auxquels doivent faire face les communautés de langues minoritaires et leur rôle en faveur de la préservation d'un patrimoine culturel européen commun et de la paix en Europe.

M. Brezigar a ensuite évoqué la situation générale en Europe et fait plus spécifiquement référence aux problèmes comportant une dimension européenne tels que ceux rencontrés dans les Balkans. Il a souligné l'importance d'une compréhension réciproque et de la tolérance envers les communautés différentes des nôtres. Un des meilleurs moyens pour y parvenir est de procéder à un échange d'informations et d'expériences avec les autres communautés et bénéficier de leur apprentissage, lorsque cela est possible. Il a cité en exemple le Kosovo, qui a pu tirer de nombreux enseignements des expériences du Sud- Tyrol. Il a également évoqué le principe de «subsidiarité inversée» selon lequel ce qui ne peut pas être fait au niveau local, en raison de l'échelle trop réduite, doit être réalisé au niveau central. Un standard minimum de droits linguistiques doit être rédigé; à ce jour, au niveau européen, seul le traité de Maastricht (article 126 sur l'enseignement et article 128 sur la culture) servent cet objectif. L'acte légal en faveur des langues et cultures minoritaires en cours de préparation par la Commission européenne est un pas en avant décisif dans cette direction.

Table ronde

La session de l'après-midi a donné lieu à un échange de vues et d'informations entre tous les participants. L'objectif de cette table ronde était de recevoir les suggestions et les critiques concernant l'acte légal. M. Lenarduzzi, directeur par intérim de la DGXXII de la Commission européenne a rappelé aux participants que la langue était un des aspects de la citoyenneté devant être reconnu, soutenu et cultivé. M. Fronia a évoqué les contours de l'acte légal pour les langues minoritaires proposé par la Commission qui garantirait une action de l'Union européenne dans ce domaine dans les cinq prochaines années. Le principal thème de discussion a porté sur les objectifs, le niveau et l'impact de la future politique en faveur des langues moins répandues. Une riche discussion a eu lieu entre les différents participants. M. Vallvé, parlementaire européen, Président de l'Intergroupe du Parlement européen pour les langues et cultures régionales ou minoritaires a expliqué que le nombre de langues de travail devait être réduit. Un second niveau d'utilisation pourrait néanmoins exister pour certains domaines, ce qui permettrait d'utiliser nos langues de manière officielle au niveau européen. Il a également souligné la nécessité d'améliorer la communication en utilisant nos langues pour le matériel de promotion. Mme Achlaitner, représentant le Conseil des ministres autrichien et la Présidence de l'Union européenne a expliqué qu'on ne pouvait pas toujours transférer un modèle d'une langue minoritaire et d'une situation à une autre. Elle a cependant exprimé la nécessité de mettre en place un forum au niveau européen pour permettre la coordination et l'échange d'informations. M. Jaschyk, du Comité économique et social a souligné la valeur ajoutée potentielle de la culture dans un contexte économique. Anna-Vari Chapalain, du comité d'Etat membre français du Bureau européen a pour sa part insisté sur la nécessité d'adopter une stratégie commune pour les actions menées par l'Union et pour les actions réalisées par les locuteurs de langues minoritaires. Les responsables des institutions européennes se sont réjouis de pouvoir être informés directement par des personnes de terrain. Pour les intervenants, ce colloque a été l'occasion de recevoir des informations sur les futures politiques de l'UE en faveur de leurs langues.

D. Breathnach

La version intégrale des interventions de la plupart des participants peut être obtenue auprès du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, Bureau de Bruxelles (adresse en dernière page)

L'Allemagne a ratifié la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires

Le 16 septembre 1998, l'Allemagne avait déposé l'instrument de ratification de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires auprès du Conseil de l'Europe à Strasbourg. La Charte est en conséquence entrée en vigueur en Allemagne le 1er janvier 1999. Sept Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe l'avaient jusqu'ici ratifiée : Norvège, Finlande, Hongrie, Pays-bas, Croatie, Liechtenstein et Suisse. Onze autres Etats ont déjà signé la Charte.

La Charte européenne des langues régionales et minoritaires est entrée en vigueur dans les cinq premiers Etats à l'avoir ratifiée, le 1er mars 1998, une date qui marque une étape importante pour la survie et une meilleure protection des langues régionales ou minoritaires d'Europe. Les langues régionales ou minoritaires ont vécu leur destin dans l'ombre pendant des années et semblaient condamnées par les langues majoritaires à perdre toute espèce d'importance. Les efforts entrepris au niveau européen, qui ont permis d'améliorer la protection des minorités nationales, grâce à l'action conjuguée du Conseil de l'Europe, de l'OSCE et du Conseil de la Baltique portent aujourd'hui leurs fruits, y compris auprès du grand public; celui-ci témoigne d'un intérêt croissant pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires. Dans une Europe en cours d'élargissement qui a besoin de tolérance, d'acceptation et de compréhension mutuelle, la protection et la promotion des langues régionales ou minoritaires peut également contribuer au maintien de la paix et au renforcement de la démocratie.

Tandis que la Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales du Conseil de l'Europe avait pu entrer en vigueur avec douze ratifications, un peu plus de deux ans seulement après le dépôt des signatures, il aura fallu attendre cinq ans avant que la Charte européenne entre en vigueur. On attribue généralement ce retard au fait que la ratification de la Charte implique le respect d'un certain nombre d'engagements concrets, à retenir dans une liste complexe et exhaustive (protection au titre de la partie III). A la différence de toutes les mesures obligatoires de protection des langues régionales ou minoritaires prévues au titre de la partie II, la Charte ne se satisfait pas, pour le chapitre III, de mesures de réglementations générales. Elle exige de l'Etat un travail exhaustif et détaillé pour chaque langue régionale ou minoritaire, sur la base de la liste de mesures de protection prévues par la Charte, avant de pouvoir souscrire à un minimum obligatoire de 35 mesures par langue.

Etant donnée la construction fédérale de l'Etat allemand, il a fallu, lors de la sélection des mesures pour les différentes langues, tenir compte des compétences de l'Etat fédéral et des seize Länder ainsi que des aspects régionaux et communaux. Les réflexions ont porté dans un premier temps sur le danois, le sorabe et le romani des Sinti et Roma allemands en tant que langues minoritaires au sens de la Charte. Au fil des discussions, des scientifiques et des associations de promotion des langues ont expliqué clairement que d'autres langues présentes en Allemagne devaient être considérées comme langues régionales ou minoritaires. Le frison et le bas-allemand ont ainsi été pris en compte en tant que langues distinctes dans les discussions. En Allemagne, la plupart des obligations prévues par la Charte relèvent en grande partie des compétences des Länder (enseignement, culture, média). L'Etat fédéral et les Länder, avec la collaboration des représentants des communautés linguistiques, ont donc engagé un dialogue intensif pour procéder au choix des engagements concrets à retenir. S'agissant du danois, du haut et bas sorabe, ainsi que du frison du nord et du Saterland dans leurs aires linguistiques respectives et du bas-allemand (Länder de Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersachsen et du Schleswig-Holstein), une protection est garantie au titre de la partie III de la Charte par le biais d'un minimum de 35 engagements pour chaque langue. La protection du romani des Sinti et Roma allemands sur l'ensemble du territoire fédéral et de la langue régionale basse-allemande dans les Länder du Brandenburg, du Nordrhein-Westfalen et de Sachsen-Anhalt sera garantie au titre de la partie II de la Charte qui contient des engagements au respect de certains objectifs et principes généraux. Pour le romani et le bas-allemand dans ces trois Länder, la République fédérale allemande a cependant notifié au Conseil de l'Europe sa décision de souscrire volontairement à certaines dispositions de la partie III de la Charte.

Il apparaît en tout état de cause qu'une protection au titre de la partie III de la Charte pour le romani dans le Land de Hessen pourra être mise en place. La charte prévoit expressément des compléments de ratifications ultérieurs afin de permettre et encourager l'extension des mesures de protection en faveur de ces langues. La protection du romani au titre de la partie III pour le Land de Hessen et le cas échéant pour d'autres Länder sera donc notifiée au Conseil de l'Europe dans le cadre d'une nouvelle procédure de ratification.

Les Etats ont l'obligation de rendre des comptes sur la réalisation de leurs engagements sous forme de rapport au Conseil de l'Europe. Le premier rapport doit être remis un an après la ratification. L'Allemagne devra donc remettre son premier rapport au 1er janvier 2000, une date symbolique pour l'avenir, y compris, souhaitons-le, pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires. L'Europe doit aujourd'hui soutenir l'intérêt grandissant manifesté pour la survie et l'utilisation quotidienne des langues régionales et minoritaires. Il s'agit également d'utiliser la diversité des langues d'Europe et le message qu'elles véhiculent comme fondement essentiel de la culture européenne et pour poursuivre la construction d'une Europe unie. La protection de la diversité linguistique et culturelle implique davantage qu'une simple reconnaissance de l'identité des membres des communautés linguistiques et la préservation d'un patrimoine culturel. Elle contribue également à la compréhension mutuelle et à l'intégration de tous les citoyens dans leur Etat, car elle suppose et requiert ouverture et tolérance vis-à-vis des autres langues et cultures.

Rainer Krupatz,
Ministère de l'Intérieur, Allemagne

La France annonce la signature prochaine de la Charte européenne

«La France devrait signer la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires au début de l'année» a déclaré M. Lionel Jospin, premier ministre français, dans un communiqué du 7 octobre. Cette annonce fait suite à la remise du rapport qui avait été confié au constitutionnaliste Guy Carcassonne afin d'examiner la compatibilité de la Charte avec la Constitution française. M. Carcassonne a estimé que la France peut, «dans des conditions compatibles avec la Constitution, souscrire à 52 des engagements proposés». Quelques réserves ont cependant été émises concernant le sens à donner à la notion de groupe au sens de la charte. Selon M. Carcassonne, l'adoption d'une déclaration interprétative accompagnant la signature de la Charte devrait lever tout obstacle constitutionnel. L'auteur rappelle que la France ne pourra cependant pas adhérer à toutes les prescriptions envisagées, certaines d'entre elles restant «plus ou moins directement contraires à tel ou tel des principes proclamés par la Constitution». Pour Lionel Jospin, «ce choix revêt une dimension symbolique forte». «Le temps où l'unité nationale et la pluralité des cultures régionales paraissaient antagonistes est révolu» a-t-il précisé.

Les associations œuvrant pour les langues et cultures régionales ont accueilli favorablement le rapport de M. Poignant et les déclarations de Lionel Jospin. Les conclusions du rapport de M. Carcassonne ont été accueillies avec davantage de réserve. A l'appel du Comité républicain, une série de rassemblements de soutien aux initiatives annoncées ont été organisés le 5 décembre dans dix villes de France. A noter le succès spectaculaire de cette opération en Bretagne, où près de six mille participants se sont rassemblés à Kemper. L'objectif de cette journée était de réclamer la signature de la Charte et une modification de l'article 2 de la Constitution française qui stipule, depuis 1992, que la langue de la République est le français. Une telle modification, préconisée par M. Poignant, apparaît indispensable aux associations de promotion de ces langues afin de prévenir d'éventuels blocages juridiques lors de la mise en application ultérieure des mesures de la Charte. Il s'agissait enfin de réclamer l'adoption d'une loi cadre pour la promotion des langues régionales de France.

Après la récente décision de signer la Charte du gouvernement britannique et la récente ratification allemande, cette annonce revêt une importance considérable. En France, un tel choix marquerait une rupture fondamentale avec les politiques menées par les prédécesseurs de M. Jospin. Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues salue la volonté et l'engagement européen exprimés par M. Lionel Jospin à cette occasion et se réjouit d'une collaboration future avec le gouvernement français pour promouvoir l'important patrimoine linguistique présent dans ce pays.

Yann Rivallain

50e anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des Droits de l'Homme

Il y a 50 ans, le 10 décembre 1948, l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies adoptait la Déclaration universelle des Droits de l'Homme. Au fil des ans, la déclaration s'est affirmée comme le texte précurseur de nombreuses autres déclarations, conventions, chartes et résolutions portant sur différents aspects des Droits de l'Homme – droits ethniques, droits des minorités, droits à l'enseignement – et, plus près des préoccupations directes du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, des droits linguistiques.

L'article 2 de la Déclaration universelle stipule que *«chacun peut se prévaloir de tous les droits et de toutes les libertés proclamés dans la présente déclaration, sans distinction aucune, notamment de race, de couleur, de sexe, de langue, de religion, d'opinion politique ou de toute autre opinion, d'origine nationale ou sociale, de fortune, de naissance ou de toute autre situation.»*

La Déclaration universelle a été traduite dans plusieurs centaines de langues, y compris dans de nombreuses langues moins répandues d'Europe. En tant qu'organisation non gouvernementale disposant du statut spécial de consultant auprès du Conseil social des Nations unies, le Bureau tient à marquer le cinquantième anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle en reproduisant l'article 2 dans quelques-unes de ces langues.

Dónall Ó Riagáin

Une mise au point du CROMBEL à propos du Rapport Poignant

Le Comité roman du Comité belge du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, (CROMBEL) lors de sa dernière réunion en date du mercredi 30 septembre a pris connaissance avec grand intérêt du rapport «Langues et cultures régionales» rédigé par Bernard POIGNANT à la demande du premier ministre du gouvernement français, Lionel JOSPIN.

Le CROMBEL se réjouit des conclusions de ce rapport qui plaident en faveur d'une politique positive de la France à l'égard des langues et cultures régionales, en appui d'autres choix fondamentaux comme celui de la signature de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires, celui d'une décentralisation (qui ne remet pas en cause l'importance de l'Etat), ou encore celui du multilinguisme.

Le CROMBEL regrette toutefois certaines imprécisions ou erreurs quant à l'objet même du rapport. Lui paraît particulièrement dommageable la confusion entretenue par le rapport Poignant, à propos du domaine d'Oïl, entre *langues régionales* et *français régionaux*. Si les premières, du point de vue de leur origine, sont, au même titre que le français, des langues héritières du latin pratiqué en Gaule après la conquête romaine, les seconds sont des variétés du français, telles qu'il en existe dans l'ensemble de la francophonie. Il n'y a aucune filiation directe entre les langues régionales et les français régionaux; tout au plus existe-t-il des interférences. Sans doute les langues d'Oïl «proprement dites» sont aujourd'hui menacées, mais elles n'ont pas disparu (comme le prétend le rapport, p. 8), pas plus qu'elles ne sont «devenues des français régionaux» (p. 9 du rapport).

Autant une politique positive de la France en faveur des langues d'Oïl «régionales» est depuis longtemps souhaitée, autant la confusion avec les français régionaux (qui ne sont pas des «langues» distinctes du français de référence) va à l'encontre de la réalité scientifique et des efforts consentis depuis longtemps par les promoteurs du patrimoine linguistique européen. C'est notamment le cas de la Communauté française de Belgique qui a attribué le statut de coofficialité avec le français aux langues régionales qui sont pratiquées sur les aires géographiques où elle exerce ses compétences. Ceci concerne, entre autres, les langues d'oïl comme le champenois, le picard, le lorrain et le wallon. Ces langues sont pratiquées aussi bien en France qu'en Belgique et c'est la raison pour laquelle le CROMBEL, sans vouloir s'immiscer dans des dossiers relatifs à un pays tiers, tenait à apporter ces précisions indispensables.

J-L. Fauconnier

Un Statut de protection pour le gaélique d'Ecosse ?

Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG), la principale organisation [illegible] au développement du gaélique en Ecosse, a publié, [illegible] Affaires écossaises (Scottish Office) un rapport contenant [illegible] arguments en faveur d'une protection [illegible] de la langue gaélique intitulé *[illegible] Gàidhlig [illegible] Status for Gaelic*. [illegible] rapport recommande la mise en place d'une législation [illegible] de fournir des dispositions [illegible] droit à un enseignement [illegible], de l'utilisation du gaélique dans le système judiciaire, de la création d'un service de télévision et radiodiffusion en gaélique [illegible], de manière appropriée, de la mise en place [illegible] autorités locales et d'autres organismes publics, de politiques [illegible] du gaélique les engageant à fournir une variété de services [illegible]. Le rapport contient également un certain nombre de recommandations concernant la place du gaélique au sein du nouveau gouvernement écossais. CnaG considère que la loi doit établir un principe fondamental d'[illegible] entre l'anglais et le gaélique en Ecosse, dans le droit fil de la reconnaissance accordée au gallois par le biais du *Welsh Language Act* de 1993.

Le rapport avait été accueilli [illegible] par le ministre du Scottish Office en charge du gaélique à l'époque, M. [illegible] Wilson. Au cours des débats concernant le *Scotland Bill*, la loi qui institue le nouveau Parlement écossais, une [illegible] de M. Wilson publiée dans le *Scotsman* indiquant qu'il était favorable à une protection législative du gaélique et qu'il [illegible] que les Gaels n'aient pas à attendre la création du nouveau parlement pour qu'une telle législation entre en vigueur. Depuis, M. Wilson s'est cependant montré réticent à une législation spécifique pour le gaélique et notamment aux mesures plus spécifiques demandées par CnaG, en particulier dans le domaine de l'enseignement en gaélique.

En juin, on a annoncé que le gouvernement britannique signerait et ratifierait prochainement la Charte européenne des langues régionales et minoritaires du Conseil de l'Europe. Le gaélique a été désigné comme une des langues qui bénéficieront d'une protection spéciale au titre de la partie III de la Charte. Tout en accueillant cette annonce [illegible] pour le gaélique [illegible] rappelé que la Charte [illegible] substitut [illegible] législation [illegible] en faveur de la [illegible] appellent de leurs voeux. Allan Campbell, directeur général de *Comunn na Gàidhlig*, décrit la décision du gouvernement britannique comme un [illegible] historique et déterminant. M. Campbell et Rob Dunbar [illegible] statut de protection [illegible] que la Charte [illegible] de droits [illegible] gaélique et n'empêche pas [illegible] nombre ou de la portée des [illegible] en gaélique. [illegible] sont fondamentaux pour la communauté gaélique. CnaG continuera à faire pression auprès du nouveau ministre chargé du gaélique, Calum MacDonald, député des Western Isles, de langue maternelle [illegible] afin de faire avancer le dossier du statut de protection.

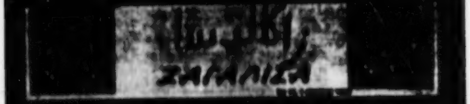
Rob Dunbar,

Président du groupe de travail sur le statut de protection au sein de CnaG

Reconnaissance officielle du mirandais au Portugal

Le 17 septembre 1998, le parlement portugais – [illegible] Assembleia da Republica – a approuvé à l'unanimité une loi rendant officiel l'usage du mirandais, langue romane parlée dans le nord-est du Portugal par environ 12000 personnes. Selon Manuela Barros, linguiste de cette région, le mirandais est issu de la langue parlée autrefois dans le Royaume du Leon. Les locuteurs de mirandais vivent dans une région d'environ 500 km2, autour de la ville de Miranda do Douro, au bord de la rivière du même nom qui forme la frontière entre l'Espagne et le Portugal. La reconnaissance officielle du mirandais signifie que l'Etat devra désormais promouvoir l'usage de la langue dans cette région, y compris à l'école, et mettre en œuvre tous les moyens à sa disposition pour empêcher sa disparition. L'entrée en vigueur de cette loi fait espérer une signature de la Charte européenne des langues régionales et minoritaires par le Portugal en 1999.

Yann Rivallain



ZAGALISA, premier journal en pomaque

Le quinzième numéro du mensuel Zagalisa vient de paraître. Fondé à [illegible] par le Centre de Recherche [illegible], c'est le premier journal publié en langue pomaque [illegible] en 199[illegible]. Il constitue un événement capital pour la communauté pomaque. Les Pomaques [illegible] Thrace occidentale. Au cours des deux dernières décennies, quelques milliers d'entre eux ont émigré dans la préfecture d'Attique. Ils parlent le dialecte Rhodope du pomaque, langue indo-européenne appartenant à la branche orientale de la famille sud-slave. Selon certaines estimations, environ 27 000 Pomaques vivaient en Thrace occidentale en 1971. En vertu des dispositions du traité de Lausanne (1923), les musulmans de Thrace occidentale, à savoir les Turcs, les Pomaques et les Tsiganes, sont partiellement protégés et jouissent de droits [illegible]. Ils ont par exemple le droit de conserver leurs propres institutions religieuses. Le pomaque ne bénéficie cependant d'aucun statut officiel. Les enfants pomaques [illegible] matières sont [illegible] entre le turc et le grec. De ce fait le pomaque [illegible] qu'une langue familiale et vernaculaire.

Pour ses responsables, [illegible] les spécificités [illegible] inévitablement les personnes qui redoutent la diversité culturelle. Les responsables de Zagalisa sont toutefois déterminés à poursuivre leur travail et à améliorer le magazine, en dépit des contraintes financières rencontrées. Ils ne souhaitent pas recourir à la publicité pour assurer son financement bien que la décision de traduire les articles en grec ait entraîné une hausse des coûts de production. La présence de la langue sur un document imprimé revêt une signification particulière. Elle a suscité pour la première fois un sentiment de fierté auprès des locuteurs.

Hamdi Omer

Conférence internationale sur la législation en matière linguistique à Dublin.

De gauche à droite : Pádraic Mac Donncha, Président, Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, Bojan Brezigar, Président, Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Ministre d'Etat, secrétariat à la culture, au patrimoine, au Gaeltacht et aux îles, Irlande et Dr. Victor C. Goldbloom, Commissaire aux langues officielles, Canada, lors de la conférence internationale sur la législation en matière linguistique.

La première Conférence internationale sur la législation en matière linguistique s'est tenue à Dublin, en Irlande, du 14 au 18 octobre 1998. Cette conférence était organisée par Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, la confédération des associations de promotion de la langue irlandaise soutenue financièrement par la Commission européenne. L'objectif de cette conférence était d'étudier la structure et le contenu de la législation en place dans différents pays et ainsi que la nature et le rôle des organismes publics chargés de mettre en œuvre la législation linguistique.

Cette conférence a été organisée pour répondre à la proposition du gouvernement irlandais de promulguer une loi linguistique afin de clarifier les droits des locuteurs et les obligations des organismes publics vis-à-vis de la langue irlandaise. Les organisateurs estimaient que les préparatifs pour la création d'un cadre législatif pour la langue irlandaise devaient inclure une analyse minutieuse de la nature et de l'impact des législations linguistiques existantes ailleurs.

La conférence a été ouverte par Éamon Ó Cuív, député, ministre d'Etat pour la langue irlandaise, tandis que le discours principal a été prononcé par le Dr. Victor Goldbloom, Commissaire pour les langues officielles du Canada.

Un des principaux thèmes sous-jacents abordé au cours de pratiquement toutes les présentations a été la nécessité d'une mise en application effective de toute politique linguistique, aussi bien au niveau national qu'au niveau international. Toute disposition, qu'elle soit de nature constitutionnelle ou législative n'a aucun sens si elle n'est pas accompagnée d'un engagement ferme de mettre cette politique en pratique.

Dans ce contexte, la construction de bases légales contraignantes, tant pour les législations linguistiques en place que proposées, revêt une importance particulière. C'est uniquement à partir d'elles que l'on peut dériver un devoir de mise en application correspondant. Parmi les justifications avancées pour leur mise en place, les participants ont évoqué le fait que l'objectif de préservation et la survie des langues régionales et minoritaires est une fin en soi et vient s'insérer dans un objectif plus large de préservation de la diversité culturelle et linguistique.

La notion d'égalité entre les différents groupes linguistiques à l'intérieur d'un Etat a également été discutée et citée par exemple par le ministre Ó Cuív dans son discours d'ouverture. De cette manière, le devoir de mise en application est directement lié aux droits fondamentaux des locuteurs de langues régionales ou minoritaires.

La recherche de la base la plus appropriée pour créer un devoir de mise en œuvre applicable est sans aucun doute un thème qui requiert de plus amples réflexions et délibérations. La capacité d'une politique linguistique à toucher le secteur privé ainsi que les organismes d'Etat devra en particulier être discutée.

Le ministre a également souligné la nécessité d'une procédure de mise en œuvre indépendante et les participants ont pu bénéficier directement de l'expérience du Canada dans ce domaine par l'intermédiaire du Dr. Goldbloom. Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge a suggéré au gouvernement irlandais qu'un office semblable à l'Office du Commissaire aux langues officielles du Canada soit chargé de superviser la mise en application de la loi sur la langue irlandaise. Le taux de succès obtenu par l'Office canadien en matière de correction des déficiences ayant donné lieu à des plaintes, est particulièrement encourageant. Un des succès remarquables remporté par Dr. Goldbloom dans le cadre de son mandat de Commissaire est d'avoir progressivement donné un rôle pro-actif à son office, alors qu'on lui prêtait initialement un simple rôle de surveillance. La commande d'études empiriques indépendantes par son office se sont révélées particulièrement précieuses. Dr. Goldbloom a fait spécifiquement référence à une étude ayant démontré que l'argument habituellement utilisé *à l'encontre* des initiatives bilingues, celui de leur coût prohibitif, ne résiste pas à l'épreuve d'une étude analytique objective.

Joe Mac Donnacha/ Niamh Nic Shuibhne

Pour obtenir des informations complémentaires, contactez Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, 46, Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Irlande
tél : +353.1.679480; Fax : +353.1.6790214;
email : sean@comhdhail.ie.

Compétitivité et intégration européenne des plus nobles
Un double CD du chœur slovène de Carinthie, Rož

Réunissant 26 langues et cultures, *Chant d'espoir* et *Humiliés et offensés – chants des peuples opprimés*, le double CD que vient de présenter le chœur slovène de Carinthie d'Autriche, Rož , marie au plus haut niveau artistique le chant choral classique à une certaine vision de l'intégration européenne. Le premier CD rassemble quatre chants liturgiques, donc de recueillement, en hébreu, arabe, slavon et une missa créole en latin.

Le deuxième CD donne vie au terme diversité et nous permet de découvrir et d'apprécier sa dimension culturelle. Il nous propose 22 chants populaires tirés des répertoires des Frisons et des Irlandais du Nord, des Ecossais, des Basques, des Corses, des Ladins, des Frioulans, des Slovènes de Vénétie et du Frioul, des Croates du Burgenland d'Autriche, des Hongrois de Transsylvanie, des Macédoniens de Pirin en Bulgarie, des Arméniens, des Palestiniens, des Kurdes, des Erythréens, des autochtones d'Afrique du Sud, des Philippines, d'Australie, des Amériques du Sud et du Nord ainsi que des Inuits et des Roms.

Réalisé par un chœur de paysans amateurs, ce double CD n'a rien à envier, en terme de qualité, aux grands chœurs professionnels des hauts lieux de la culture en Europe, pourtant fortement subventionnés. Il constitue un enregistrement incontournable pour tous les amateurs de chant choral et démontre une fois de plus à quel point des communautés, bien souvent intentionnellement affublées du qualificatif «petites» disposent d'un potentiel de ressources humaines à découvrir.

Ce CD est aussi un document précieux pour tous ceux qui cherchent dans leur engagement pour la tolérance, le pluralisme et le droit à la différence un réconfort et un soutien moral. Cette œuvre, réalisée par un chœur traditionnel slovène, composé de paysans et d'employés ordinaires, est la preuve même que le discours sur la diversité culturelle comme projet d'avenir pour l'Europe est plus justifié que jamais. Ce disque démontre qu'à une géostratégie arrogante, qui tue la diversité, nous uniformise et nous prive de notre humanité, notre joie de vivre et notre démocratie, peut se substituer une alternative réelle, vivante et riche. Qu'on lui permette simplement de survivre et l'on trouvera dans cette diversité culturelle encore vivante, bien que souvent menacée au sein de l'Europe des 15 et au-delà, le ferment dont se nourrissent les "grands" pour se mesurer les uns aux autres. Qu'il s'agisse de Vienne 1900, Paris, Londres ou New York, toutes ces capitales du discours culturel, voire même du progrès, ne sont devenues ce qu'elles sont ou ce qu'elles se targuent d'être que grâce aux apports vitaux des "petits", toujours contraints à se poser des questions, à se remettre en cause et à développer des visions nouvelles. Ceci est vrai pour les minorités ethniques et les groupes sociaux opprimés. La réponse la plus humble et la plus digne à la fois consiste à s'insérer dans une noble concurrence qui est au cœur de ce que d'aucuns appellent l'intégration européenne.

Bojan-Ilija Schnabl, assistant de Harald Ettl au Parlement européen

Rož Pesem upanja – Lied der Hofnung, Ponižani in razžaljeni, pesmi zatiranih narodov – Erniedrigte und Beleidigte, Lieder unterdruckter Völker, ISBN 3-221-13082-1. Distribution: Extraplatte, A-1094 Wien, Pf. 22; tel.: +43-1-3101084, fax: +43-1-3100324, e-mail: extraplatte@blackbox.at.

VISITE D'ETUDE DANS LA COMMUNAUTE SÁMI EN NORVEGE
Les peuples éleveurs de rennes luttent pour leurs droits sur les sols et les eaux.

En avril dernier, le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues (BELMR), en partenariat avec la Commission européenne, a organisé sa première visite d'étude de la communauté Sámi en Norvège. Les Sámis constituent une communauté de quarante à soixante mille personnes, parlant trois dialectes principaux. Bien que la Norvège ne fasse pas partie de l'Union européenne, en tant que membre de l'Association européenne de libre-échange (AELE), elle peut participer à la plupart de ses programmes culturels et donc aux activités financées par l'Union européenne en faveur de la promotion des langues minoritaires. Cette visite d'étude a permis au BELMR d'établir pour la première fois des contacts avec la très dynamique communauté Sámi dans la région de Finnmark.

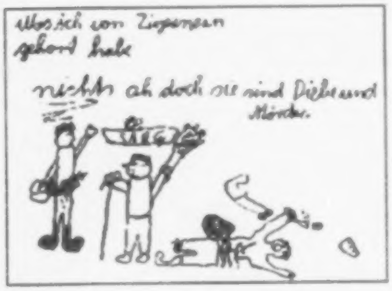
Quatorze participants (représentant le basque, le catalan, le frison, le frioulan, le gaélique d'Ecosse, l'irlandais, le romani, le slovène, le sorabe et le gallois) ont largement franchi le cercle polaire arctique pour se rendre à Alta, Karasjok/Kárášjohka et Kautokeino/Guovdageaidnu, où ils ont rendu visite aux principales institutions politiques, administratives, culturelles ou de formation. Ils ont également pu rencontrer les personnes les plus impliquées dans la défense de la langue. Ils ont découvert les épreuves auxquelles les Sámis ont du faire face au cours de l'histoire et pu admirer leur approche novatrice et audacieuse en matière de promotion linguistique. La comparaison des difficultés et des solutions adoptées, des inconvénients et des résultats enregistrés leur a permis de renouveler et d'enrichir leur regard sur leurs propres communautés.

A l'heure actuelle, le problème le plus brûlant pour la communauté Sámi est celui de leurs droits sur le sol et les eaux. Au début du siècle, au moment où les politiques d'assimilation du gouvernement étaient les plus virulentes, celui-ci a adopté une loi interdisant aux personnes qui ne pouvaient parler ou écrire en norvégien d'être propriétaire foncier. Ceci a entraîné des pertes considérables pour les Sámis. Après des sombres décennies et un déclin tragique dans l'usage de la langue, en 1979-1981, une levée de boucliers contre un projet d'exploitation des eaux (construction d'un barrage sur la rivière Alta) a conduit les Sámis à reprendre conscience de leur identité linguistique et culturelle commune. La question de la propriété et de l'exploitation des terres, intimement liée aux problèmes d'identité et de survie de la communauté est depuis lors la question centrale des débats politiques. Quel degré d'autonomie et d'indépendance doit être accordé aux Sámis dans la gestion de leurs terres ? La réponse à cette question devrait permettre de garantir les droits historiques des Sámis sans négliger pour autant les institutions territoriales représentatives et démocratiquement élues, au sein desquelles les Sámis ne sont plus systématiquement majoritaires aujourd'hui.

Un délai de deux ans a été accordé au parlement Sámi pour adopter une position officielle. Pendant ce temps, les autres minorités européennes peuvent tirer comme enseignement des débats en cours en Sámi et en Norvège que des questions aussi complexes et imbriquées sur le plan historique peuvent être abordées démocratiquement lorsqu'un souci de confiance et de respect mutuel est présent de part et d'autre.

Ivana Suhadolc

Livres



Mariage réussi entre recherche et pratique dans un ouvrage consacré aux enfants Sinti et Roma dans les écoles allemandes.

Schattenkämpfe, Rudiger Wurr et Sylvia Träbing-Butzmann, Agimos Verlag, Kiel/Allemagne, 1998.

«Qu'ai-je entendu sur les tziganes ? Rien...Ah si ! Qu'ils sont des voleurs et des assassins !». Cette remarque naïve a été faite par un enfant allemand dans le Land fédéral du Schleswig-Holstein. Il répondait à une enquête menée dans les écoles auprès d'enfants et d'adolescents de 10 à 21 ans et d'étudiants en pédagogie sociale âgés de 18 à 36 ans. Les résultats de cette enquête sont démoralisants : l'opinion générale sur les Sinti et Roma est largement négative, les connaissances sur cette minorité sont maigres tandis que les préjugés négatifs ou les clichés romantiques irréalistes restent au contraire prédominants. La question de la scolarité des enfants Sinti et Roma doit être abordée à la lumière d'un tel contexte. Dans de nombreux endroits d'Allemagne, il est courant d'envoyer les enfants Sinti et Roma dans des écoles spécialisées de très bonne heure, ce qui compromet ou rend leur accès à une scolarité normale beaucoup plus difficile.

On trouve dans *Schattenkämpfe* des exemples d'endroits où l'on tente d'améliorer la situation scolaire dans toute l'Allemagne. Le résultat est sans équivoque : là où les Sinti et/ou les Roma ont pris en charge les projets eux-mêmes ou participé activement à leur élaboration, de nets progrès ont été observés.

Une combinaison d'analyses empiriques et d'exemples concrets, complétée par un aperçu historique de la situation des Sinti et Roma dans le Land fédéral du Schleswig-Holstein et par une introduction au romani comme vecteur d'identité font de cet ouvrage une lecture recommandée, y compris au-delà des horizons du Schleswig-Holstein et même de l'Allemagne.

Brigitte Alfter Flensborg Avis

MGO - ***Mercator guide to organisations providing information on lesser used languages*, ed. R.S Tjeerdsma, Fryske Academy, Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, 1998. ISBN 90-6171-857-0.**

Ce guide propose une description des associations et organisations travaillant dans le domaine des langues moins répandues en Europe. Il présente sous forme de fiches signalétiques les instituts et associations privés ou publics susceptibles de fournir des informations sur les communautés de langue minoritaire autochtone de l'Union européenne. Les entrées sont classées par Etat membre de l'Union et divisées en sections consacrées à chaque communauté linguistique. Cette quatrième édition du guide Mercator a été entièrement mise à jour et propose des informations sur plus de 500 organisations présentes dans les Etats membres de l'UE ainsi qu'en Suisse, à Malte et en Norvège. Depuis sa première édition en 1990, ce guide s'est avéré une source d'information indispensable pour le public, les journalistes, chercheurs, enseignants, responsables politiques et plus généralement pour toute organisation recherchant des informations sur les communautés de langues moins répandues en Europe. *MGO* est publié en anglais.

Contact : Mercator Education, Postbus 54, 8900 AB Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Pays-bas.
Tél: +31-58-2131414, Fax: +31-58-2131409.

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COMPENDIUM
1996

***Compendium des projets de promotion des langues minoritaires autochtones de l'Union Européenne financés par la Commission Européenne 1995 et 1996.* Zoe Bray. ISBN 90-74851-53-3 et 90-74851-54-1.**

En 1995 et 1996, la Direction Générale XXII de la Commission Européenne (Education, Formation, Jeunesse) a financé plus de 150 projets en faveur des langues et cultures régionales ou minoritaires dans les domaines de l'enseignement, de la pédagogie, de la normalisation linguistique, des médias ou des activités culturelles. Composé de deux volumes (1995 et 1996), le compendium décrit brièvement, par communauté linguistique, le contenu des projets afin de faire partager l'expérience et les résultats obtenus. Les associations et organisations engagées dans la promotion des langues minoritaires pourront en tirer une source d'information et d'inspiration utile pour de futurs projets. Publié en français avec des sections en anglais. 117 et 120 pages.

***Guide des possibilités de financement pour les groupes linguistiques minoritaires.* Zoe Bray. ISBN 90-74851-56-8.**

En dehors de la ligne budgétaire spécifique (B3 1006) consacrée aux langues minoritaires dans le budget européen, de nombreux programmes ou actions communautaires peuvent intéresser de manière directe ou indirecte les communautés linguistiques minoritaires. Afin de les aider à mieux tirer parti des diverses opportunités existantes, ce guide recense différents programmes dans les domaines suivants: culture, formation, jeunesse, médias, recherche, emploi, sport, technologie, tourisme, urbanisation. Pour chaque programme sont indiqués les objectifs, les conditions d'éligibilité, les échéances ainsi que des adresses de contact. Une liste de fondations privées, accompagnée d'un descriptif de leur champ d'action, vient compléter cette revue des possibilités institutionnelles. Ce guide constitue donc un outil indispensable pour élargir le champ d'action des communautés linguistiques au niveau européen. Publié en anglais. 59 pages. 5 EUROS.

***Bretagne. Une langue en quête d'avenir.* Per Denez. Langues Européennes 7. ISBN 90-74851-57-6.**

Cette brochure retrace l'histoire culturelle de la langue bretonne depuis son implantation sur le continent à partir du Ve siècle jusqu'à ses combats actuels. L'auteur y aborde les principales étapes de l'évolution de la langue et les différentes facettes de la culture bretonne et de l'action en faveur de son renouveau. Abandonnées par les élites à partir du X^e^ siècle, peu à peu combattue par la centralisation croissante du Royaume de France puis de la République, la langue et la culture bretonnes témoignent depuis plus d'un siècle d'un dynamisme créatif en constante progression. Sera-t-il suffisant pour assurer l'avenir d'une langue de plus en plus menacée par l'absence de protection officielle? *Bretagne, une langue en quête d'avenir*, est un ouvrage indispensable pour qui souhaite se faire une idée exacte et complète de la situation de la langue bretonne et de tous les efforts entrepris en sa faveur. Publié en français et en anglais. 37 pages. 5 EUROS.

***Vade-Mecum, a guide to legal, political and other official international documents pertaining to the lesser used languages of Europe*, Dónall Ó Riagáin (ed.), Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues, 1998. ISBN 1870675-12-6**

L'objectif de la première édition du Vade-Mecum, publiée en 1994 par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues était de rassembler les principaux textes législatifs et politiques ainsi que les autres documents officiels multilatéraux concernant la promotion des langues régionales/minoritaires moins répandues en Europe. Cette deuxième édition entièrement révisée inclut un certain nombre de textes fondamentaux supplémentaires, adoptés depuis 1994. Une section concernant les institutions européennes et les autres organisations internationales a été ajoutée à cette nouvelle édition ainsi qu'une liste de sites Web intéressants. Les textes sont groupés par sections consacrées à chaque organisation ayant publié des documents dans ce domaine. Le Vade-Mecum met ces documents officiels à la disposition du public dans un format attrayant et facile d'accès. Il constitue un précieux outil de référence qui permet de prendre un certain recul et mettre en relation des évolutions dont la parenté n'est pas forcément apparente au premier abord. Cette seconde édition du Vade-Mecum est publiée en anglais. 120 pages. 10 EUROS.

[illegible]
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contact bulletin

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Ratification by Member States of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages	
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Finland	
Germany	
Hungary	
Liechtenstein	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Switzerland	

Signature of a Charter, or any such convention, implies agreement with the principles contained therein and should lead to eventual ratification.

For further details:
www.coe.fr/[illegible]/148e.htm
www.coe.fr/[illegible]/148t.htm

A Minorities News Agency

A long-standing aspiration of Europe's minority language communities has come a step nearer with the adoption of a plan by the EBLUL Board, supported by the European Commission, to run a pilot project for a news agency focusing on matters affecting minority and regional languages. The preparatory stage will begin in the second half of 1999 and the operational phase will start early in the year 2000.

Prof. Tom Mooring, chairing the news agency seminar

The thrust of the project is three-fold:

to redress the absence or misrepresentation of minorities in the majority-language press and media; minorities do not always spell trouble - there is also good news to be told .

to circulate news about minority questions regularly among the press and media in minority languages. This is an aspect of the increasing pan-European networking that is taking place in a variety of fields.

to allow better communication between the European institutions and those forty million citizens who speak regional and minority languages.

But can it work? And how should it work? These were some of the questions discussed very thoroughly in a two-day preparatory seminar held in Brussels on 12/13 March. Tom Moring, a professor of journalism in Helsinki, acted as convener and the seminar took the form of his interrogating a number of experts who then took part in a wider discussion with those present. Policy and editorial questions, economic, legal and technical aspects were all covered.

As well as representation from EBLUL, Mercator-Media and minority language press, radio and TV, there were participants from majority media such as Reuters, the Financial Times and the BBC. This was particularly valuable since it made the seminar confront the real difficulties faced in getting minorities noticed by large players in the media world.

Would the news agency be recognised as such or be perceived as a PR exercise by yet another pressure group such as Greenpeace or Amnesty? Although to start with, an organization closely connected to the Bureau would inevitably be perceived as a pressure group, at least by the majority-language media, it was thought important that the material should be written by professional journalists in the various language areas working to traditional ethical codes - i.e. giving all the facts, reporting the various different points of view. If EBLUL had a view on a particular matter, this would be reported as one view among others. The aim was to get greater and fairer coverage of minority questions into the media, not to push particular points of view on specific issues. This is not the place to go into the technical issues which were treated in considerable and fascinating detail by experts from Catalunya and Slovenia - suffice it to say that the internet will play a crucial part in what will have to be a low-cast operation.

The pilot scheme hopes to start with some eight participating language groups. Ultimately, all going well, the intention is to include all minority-language groups in the European Union.

Ned Thomas

Bilingualism in nursery schools : **Plattdeutsch**

While the majority of East Frisians want to preserve their language, only 10% of the children are being taught it. The East Frisian *Landschaft*, a regional institute for science, culture and education, has conducted an experiment entitled "Bilingualism in nursery schools" with children between the ages of 3 and 6.

During the 1997/98 school year, 12 nursery schools (613 children) took part in the experiment and in the current school year, 32 are involved (approximately 2,000 children), all on a voluntary basis. This voluntary spirit was essential, given that there is as yet no binding legal basis in Germany for bilingual work in nursery schools. This situation will remain unchanged with the coming into force of the European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages on 1 December 1998. In the longer term, however, bilingual work in nursery schools needs to be given legal protection so that it is recognised as a mark of quality.

Plans to set up private monolingual nursery schools in the regional language have been set aside in order initially to attract maximum support for bilingual education. During the first year of the project, the main focus was on informing and involving parents. This strategy has paid off, as has been demonstrated by the high level of participation and the positive response to the experiment. The experiment also has repercussions within families: some parents have started to speak to their children in Plattdeutsch. In the long term, it may be possible to develop more ambitious models (monolingual nursery schools in the regional language, for example).

Teams of nursery nurses were consulted before the experiment began and informed about the methods involved in bilingual education. With this information they then created their own particular work programmes for their nursery schools. Most of the nursery schools chose a system where each group of children being looked after by two people, one of whom spoke High German and the other Plattdeutsch with them. Some nursery schools chose time-based models (at certain times, only High German or only Plattdeutsch were spoken). Others did not have sufficient staff who spoke Plattdeutsch and experimented with outside helpers (mothers or grandmothers who spoke Plattdeutsch) and "language godparents".

The central theme of the second project year, in addition to the development of didactic aspects, will be the question of how to continue with bilingual education in primary schools. Nursery schools and schools are administered in Germany by different ministries and are not all run according to the same didactic principles. A considerable amount of pioneering work is still required to guarantee smooth transitions from one educational institution to another.

Cornelia Nath
(**Head of the regional language department of the East Frisian Institute**)

Harmonising Babel

The linguistic minorities demand a greater presence in the Italian media

Italy's linguistic minorities are demanding a greater media presence from RAI (Italy's state broadcasting corporation), the public service concessionaire. Today, of the 12 historical minorities recognised in Italy, only four enjoy radio and television broadcasts in their own languages. The others have no voice in the field of the mass media. But even the communities which do have access to radio and TV (the Germans and the Ladins in Trentino/South Tyrol, the Slovenes in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and the French in Vallée d'Aosta) are not satisfied: the broadcasting hours of the four minorities vary considerably. The hours of TV broadcasting vary, for example, from the 550 guaranteed annually to the Germans to the 39 for the Ladins. The funding granted by the state also varies, ranging from about 30 billion lire for the RAI station in Trentino-Alto Adige to 7 for the Friuli-Venezia Giulia station. The minorities are demanding greater coherence and coordination. They are asking RAI to draw up an overall editorial and industrial plan to put an end to the current fragmentation and precariousness. They want the state to respect the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, already ratified by the Italian Parliament. The Convention envisages adequate measures for facilitating access to the media by minorities.

The question of radio and television was analysed and discussed at a convention held in Bolzano at the end of March. The meeting was organised by CONFEMILI, the Italian Committee of EBLUL, and by USIGRAI, the RAI journalists' trade union, and was financed by the European Commission and by the Province of Bolzano. For the first time, the minorities were able to present their requests all together to RAI's top management. All the top executives in the public broadcasting service took part in the proceedings, from the president, Roberto Zaccaria, and the board member, Stefano Balassone, to the director of RAI 2, Giovanni Tantillo, and the head of RAI 3 News, Ennio Chiodi. While their presence indicated an appreciable interest in the media question for minorities, their speeches did not fully satisfy the participants however. In fact, the RAI executives maintained that minority transmissions must be financed directly by the Italian Prime Minister's Office through special agreements, while the minorities believe that RAI must offer specific transmissions because of its role as a public service. "We pay our licence just like other Italian citizens," said Domenico Morelli, CONFEMILI president, "and therefore we have the same right to mother tongue broadcasts." This was also the opinion of the Vallée d'Aosta deputy, Hon. Luciano Caveri, who recalled the Service Contract between the Italian Ministry of Communications and the public broadcasting service. Whatever agreements are made, this contract obliges RAI to guarantee "programming which respects the rights of linguistic minorities in the areas they belong to."During the convention in the South Tyrol, a view of Europe was offered by the chairman of the Intergroup for Linguistic Minorities at the European Parliament, Joan Vallvé, who illustrated the exemplary status enjoyed by Catalan TV. But one of the most important results of the meeting was reached at the lowest territorial level: the little linguistic communities from the Italian regions and the public service journalists established contacts and created relationships which will immediately lead to the creation of new services and radio and television features in the minority languages, whatever the relationships with management will be. The right to be informed and the right to inform conquered a voice on the airwaves at Bolzano.

Ivana Suhadolc

Télé-Breizh to come on air next year

Breton television will begin broadcasting at the beginning of the year 2000 and will be located close to the town of Lorient. An announcement to this effect was made during the Celtic Film and Television Festival which took place in Scotland at the end of March last. Following several months of consultation and visits to Wales and Scotland to see at first hand how bilingual television worked, Patrick le Lay, Director General of TF1 is now putting together a financial package of between 300 and 400 million Francs for the service.

In order to be viable, this new pay-channel will need to have a minimum of 200,000 subscribers. It will broadcast by satellite all over Europe. The programme content will be made up of regional programmes, subtitled series, talk shows, sport, and live broadcasts.

The exact amount of programmes in Breton has not yet been decided. Other than live or subtitled programmes it seems that provision will be made for programmes aimed at those wanting to learn Breton. The station will partly broadcast, depending on the content, from studios in Nantes or Locarn.

Yann Rivallain

Multilingual book launched in Belfast

Mo Mowlan at the launch of
Rejoice in Your Own Works

Rejoice in Your Own Works, a modern rendering of the well-known passage from the Book of Ecclesiastes [III, 2-8], "*....a time to sow, a time to reap, a time for war, a time for peace....*" was launched in Belfast on 25 January 1999. The publishers, Philomel Production Ltd., asked the Bureau to assist them with the launch because of the special character of the book.

Rejoice in Your Own Works gives the biblical text, accompanied by the modern rendering, in five languages side by side - Irish, Ulster-Scots, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and English. The text is by the Greek author, Ange S. Vlachos, and the line drawings which adorn the book were made by the author's brother, Paul S. Vlachos. This edition is intended for children and space is allowed for the young readers to write their own version and make their own illustrations.

A copy of the book was presented to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Dr. Mo Mowlam, by two young people, Anna Andrews, an Irish speaker, and Beth Robinson, whose language is Ulster-Scots. Dr. Mowlam, who described the coming together of the two lesser used language communities for the presentation as a "a wonderful event", went on to praise those who are working for respect for linguistic diversity. "A people's culture is a living thing", she said, "It cannot be locked away in a cupboard and hidden".

REJOICE IN YOUR OWN WORKS, Philomel Productions Ltd, 1999. ISBN 1 898685 31 2. Contact address: Philomel Productions Ltd., 1 Queen's Gate Place Mews, London SW7 5BG.

Dónall Ó Riagáin

Highly successful **language conference in Belfast**

Belfast City Hall was the venue for a major conference on the theme Our Language Heritage in Europe. The conference was organised in October by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages in association with the Ultach Trust and the Ulster-Scots Language Society.

The Multi-Party Agreement on the future of Northern Ireland, colloquially known as the Good Friday Agreement because of the day on which it was adopted, contains a number of positive paragraphs on language and culture. This beacon of hope was transformed when in June last the UK Government announced that it would sign and ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The Bureau felt that, at this critical juncture in the history of Northern Ireland, it could contribute to the shaping of a language policy by introducing the European dimension and organising an event where those working for both Irish and Ulster-Scots could learn from what was being done for other European lesser used languages. The Northern Ireland Sub-Committee and the staff of the Dublin Office undertook the venture and were quickly joined by the Ultach Trust [Iontaobhas Ultach], a cross-community Irish language body, and the Ulster-Scots Language Society.

The organisers originally foresaw a modest event with 30-40 participants but eventually 222 people registered for the conference. They included, not only language activists, but also members of Parliament, a number of members of the newly elected Northern Ireland Assembly as well as Councillors, senior civil servants, representatives of cultural bodies, education boards and the churches. Belfast City Council made its main hall available for the event and the Lord Mayor offered a civic reception and buffet meal for the participants.

The keynote speakers were Philip Blair, Deputy Director of the Private Office of the

A warm welcome from the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor David Alderdice, for Nick Gardner from the Basque Autonomous Community. Also in the picture are Ann Mc Quiston, Chairperson of the Northern Ireland Sub-Committee of the Bureau, Bureau Director Dr. Alex Riemersma (from Fryslân) and Senator Micheal Hayes, who chaired the conference

Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Dr Alex Riemersma of the Beria foar it Fryske and also one of the Bureau's Directors, Prof. Colin Williams of the University of Wales, Cardiff, Nick Gardner from the Education Department of the Basque Autonomous Government, Allan Campbell of Comunn na Gàidhlig and President of the UK Committee of the Bureau, and Stuart McHardy of the Scots Language Resource Centre. The conference was chaired by Senator Maurice Hayes, a former Northern Ireland ombudsman.

Philip Blair spoke on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and gave a detailed explanation of the nature and content of the Charter as well as the system of ratification.

Alex Riemersma followed by using the Netherlands as a case study for implementing the Charter. He pointed out that the report for the Council of Europe was prepared, not by the administration, but by an independent academic body. He finished his presentation by giving a brief overview of the language situation in Fryslân. The success of the Basque education system from a linguistic point of view is a source of envy for many other lesser used language communities. Nick Gardner, a language planner in the Education Department, gave the conference a fascinating description of the Basque experience. Community language planning is an area on which the Welsh Language Board has directed much of its expertise and resources in recent times and Prof. Colin Williams, one of key players in the operation, shared the Welsh experience with the participants. Closer to Northern Ireland, Allan Campbell described how Comunn na Gàidhlig was seeking to underpin recent gains for Scottish Gaelic with its campaign for "secure status" for the language. The final speaker, Stuart McHardy, gave a rousing address and called for greater cooperation between those working for Scots in Scotland and those working for Ulster-Scots in Northern Ireland.

The debate was opened to the floor and the guest speakers answered questions. Some of the informal discussions during coffee breaks were of even greater significance in that people from two divided communities engaged in mutual discussion on language matters - in the case of some for the first time ever.

Dónall Ó Riagáin

LEGISLATION

Gaelic in the Scottish Parliament

Gaelic is to be an official language in the Scottish Parliament. This was the verdict of the Consultative Steering Group on the Scottish Parliament, the group charged with the drawing up of the standing orders for the Parliament. Their 170 page report "Shaping Scotland's Parliament" was released in mid-January. A summary leaflet in Gaelic and the five most commonly used ethnic minority languages of Scotland is to follow.

While English is to be the normal language of the Scottish Parliament, the use of Gaelic will be allowed subject to prior notice being given to the presiding officer. Simultaneous translation equipment will be present to translate Gaelic speeches and these speeches will be reported bilingually in the Parliament's official report (Hansard). As there are unlikely to be many Gaelic speakers elected to Parliament, however, these facilities are unlikely to be widely used. More obvious to the general public will be the bilingual Gaelic/English signs in the Parliament which the Consultative Steering Group has recommended. The Parliament's public information centre is also to produce regular information bulletins in Gaelic specifically targeted at the Gaelic-speaking population. These proposals have been warmly welcomed by the Gaelic groups, all of whom had been lobbying hard for such an outcome.

Gaelic groups are disappointed, however, that no provision is made in the report for a Parliamentary Gaelic Committee or for a Parliamentary Gaelic Officer as were recommended by the national Gaelic development agency Comunn na Gàidhlig. The issue of whether or not there is to be a right for constituents to correspond with their MSP (Member of the Scottish Parliament) in Gaelic and to receive a reply in Gaelic is not covered by the report either. The Scottish Office have taken the view that it should be the new Parliament itself which makes decisions on issues such as these.

Most disappointing of all to Gaelic groups has been the news that there are to be no Gaelic essential posts whatsoever in the Parliament. There are to be no staff translators and simultaneous interpretation is to be done by untrained volunteers. It seems likely that translation of documents is to be done by outside contractors. The Scotsman newspaper has also recently reported that members wishing to use Gaelic will have to give 48 hours notice. This represents a major source of disillusionment for Gaelic activists and is currently being challenged by language promotional bodies such as Comunn na Gàidhlig and Comann an Luchd-Ionnsachaidh (The Gaelic learners' association) who are calling upon the government for a strengthening of the position of Gaelic in the Parliament.

Alasdair MacCaluim

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Progress is being made in Belgium

The decision by the Netherlands to include francique limbourgeois in their instrument of ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages appears to have attracted the interest of the Flemish community in Belgium. This regional language is also used in Belgium, in the Province of Limburg, an area in which this community is active.

This official body of the Belgian federal state had previously shown little interest in this issue, although it was not against the idea of protecting and promoting regional languages, which it tended to consider as dialects.

This has given added impetus to the process which, it is hoped, will lead to the signing and subsequent ratification of the Charter by Belgium. Workshops have been organised for representatives of the three communities (French, Flemish and Germanic communities) during which a list of the articles and points which may be included in the Belgian instrument of ratification of this Charter were examined. This list was drawn up by the endogenous regional language council run by the French community in Belgium, which is the consultative authority in this community for "regional languages".

The federal Ministry of Justice has also been informed of the contents of this list and has raised no major opposition to it.

The participants in the most recent meeting expressed their wish that the signing of the Charter be included on the agenda of the mixed treaty group of the interdepartmental commission for foreign policy. This proposal was accepted and renewed hope was given to all those who are actively working towards the signing of the Charter by Belgium.

Pacyince, li queuwe dy tchèt a bè fini par crèche!

For the benefit of non-Walloon speakers: be patient, the cat's tail grew in the end!

Jean-Luc Fauconnier

European Court of Justice and Linguistic Rights

Citizens whose mother tongue is German have the right to use their language in court proceedings in Alto Adige, even though they are not residents of the province of Bolzano. This was the substance of a ruling of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. The contentious ruling stemmed from a case raised by the deputy from Alto Adige, SVP, Karl Zeller. The ruling caused quite a sensation, as it was the first ruling of the European Court regarding the minorities.

The specimen case was raised during a trial in the district court of Silando in Val Venosta (near the border with Austria). The German tourist Franz Ulrich had been stopped by the police while entering Italy with a knife which was too long; the Austrian truck driver Hans Otto Bickel had been stopped in a state of drunkenness while driving his vehicle. Not being able to speak Italian, both of them requested that their cases be heard in the German language. This right has already been granted to citizens of Alto Adige by a ruling already in force since the early nineties. However, the Italian state defended the thesis that this right – that is to be able to choose the language in which the case is heard – did not apply to those who were not resident in the province. This often resulted in the absurd situation that in the district courts near the borders, cases against citizens whose mother tongue was German were heard in the Italian language, with the citizens being helped by an interpreter, even though both their own solicitor and the judge had German as their mother tongue.

In raising the preliminary question, Zeller, in his capacity as official defence council for the accused Bickel and Ulrich, pointed to the incompatibility of the said norms with the freedom of employment and movement within the European Union, besides the status of the accused as citizens of the European Union.

In its ruling, the court took full account of the criticisms made by Zeller, establishing that the right to use one's own mother tongue on the basis of the criterion of reasonableness could not be denied to citizens of the European Union who are not residents of the province of Bolzano.

In Brief

Catalunya for Kosovo

The Catalan foundation CIEMEN is only one of many NGOs in Catalunya, and many more throughout the world, which have been sending humanitarian aid to Kosovo and to Kosovan refugees. What is special about CIEMEN is that on this as on other occasions a cultural and linguistic dimension is built into its aid programme.

Drawing on funds promised to a range of Catalan organisations, CIEMEN's programme has three dimensions:

Firstly, the supply of food and medical supplies. At the time of writing in late March two lorry-loads of supplies had already been sent.

secondly, a programme will be put in place to teach people in Catalunya about the language and culture of Kosovo. Kosovan lecturers will be brought to give short courses in the University, and it and when it becomes possible there will be an exchange of students.

thirdly, if as seems likely there is a flow of refugees to Catalunya, a programme will be mounted to make them feel at home there and to learn about Catalunya. This would repeat an exercise successfully carried out with 100 Bosnian refugees who have now returned home.

In these ways CIEMEN hopes to combine urgent short-term relief with the longer-term educational aim of helping people to learn about and accept each other's cultures. It is of course the lack of tolerant linguistic and cultural policies that lies behind the present Kosovan crisis.

Contact Bulletin

"Haapar, the snow of the larks"

Italian literature and minorities: voices for a new identity

Forgotten, disdained languages, relegated for years into the family environment, have suddenly entered the plots of novels and stories at the top of the best-seller lists. Idioms which had disappeared, invisible to the media, have once again begun to peek out from the pages of those writers who are most attentive to the roots and identity of the citizens of Italy. In Italian literature the suspicion is gaining ground that not all the Italians are Italians who speak Dante's language. And this diversity, which was once considered a handicap, is increasingly considered to be a cultural asset. Linguistic uniformity, once appreciated as an element of national unification, is now finding itself scorned because it is considered an index of expressive poverty.

Cimbrian ("Cimbro") is a language still spoken by a small number of people in the alpine valleys of the Veneto and Trentino. Now, to remind us of its richness and versatility comes Mario Rigoni Stern, the hoary bard of the Asiago plateau, with three stories in his latest book, *Sentieri sotto la neve* ("Paths under the snow"), published by Einaudi. There is only one word to indicate snow in Italian. It is necessary to add an adjective to describe it: fresh snow, floury snow, wet snow, old snow, etc. But the Cimbrians, a mountain people, had different, precise words for every type of snow, each of them able on its own to express very different situations. *Brúskalan*, for example, indicates the first snow of the winter; *snea* is the snow which falls softly and abundantly; and *haapar* is the snow which falls with the first song of the lark. Rigoni Stern, a passionate archaeologist of Cimbrian, observes and takes notes, and his stories do not stop at the infinite nuances of snow. The identity of the people is also sought in the names of places, or in the totally particular type of numbering once used in Cimbrian villages, a singular and highly original way of counting.

So let us descend from the North to the South, from the Alps to the Mediterranean. In his latest novel, *Otranto*, published by Mondadori, a Piedmontese writer who is only 37 years old has woven "Grico" (variety of Greek spoken in the Salento region) into the Italian. So it is not just author-archaeologists or those who descend directly from different ethnic groups who are fascinated by the minor languages, overlooked by newspaper and television, but blossoming again from obscurity for those who stop to listen. In *Otranto* "Grico" re-ascends from memories, resounds in remembrances and arrogantly makes space for itself in the background of the novel's protagonist, a Dutch restorer who arrives in Apulia where she finds the hidden and unsuspected threads of her family history, including this primordial link with her past, the language.

Words or short phrases in Cimbrian or Grico enrich these two books with humus and depth. But apart from these contributions, which are still sporadic, it is the Italian language itself which tends to transform itself, with an increasingly willing acceptance of the influx from languages and dialects which were once strictly forbidden. Italy's best selling author this year was Andrea Camilleri, whose exciting thrillers are drenched in Sicily and Sicilianisms. Without being afraid of being incomprehensible, Camilleri does not hesitate from writing as he speaks. He wanted to use words which "belonged entirely" to him and it was a clamorous success. The languages rightly or wrongly considered to be dialects are having a comeback today, if not indeed a literary renaissance. Their new, recognised, literary dignity, reinforced by successful sales, confirms the convictions of those who have been campaigning for the affirmation of the lesser used languages. Italian itself and its literature, when they no longer fear diversity and accept enrichment and contamination, are discovering that they possess a new vitality.

Ivana Suhadolc

Translating Welsh Literature

It is easy to forget that translation is much more than the readability of next year's best-seller. It is after all the principle mechanism of intercultural communication and continues to play a major role in the production of moral and political meanings, if not in the very construction of national identities. Not that writers are straightforward ambassadors for their culture or their nation. On the contrary, they produce their own logic. However, this does not deny the fact that a writer is the product, unconscious or not, of his or her cultural, historical and geographical context.

Often, the fate of the translators seems reduced to a choice between that of a traitor or invisibility. And the same goes for the bulk of literature in translation. We all know that Britain is one of the worse offenders. And there are plenty of statistics banded to support this. The majority of publishers in Germany, like those in Spain or Italy, have given up trying to pierce the British literature market. Here, only 3% of published fiction are translations, compared to between 20 and 25% in France. A survey by the French Ministry of Culture revealed that more than 50 percent of 3rd year students at British universities could not spontaneously name a single French writer. This resistance to literary translations is rather ironic given the

British pride in cultural diversity. The common claim is that anglophone literature is so "richly diverse" already, largely thanks to Britain's former empire, that there is no need to translate anything. In other words, because some of the elites in ex-colonies were taught English, and because a tiny minority of them have justifiably become internationally successful authors, we have enough "exoticism" to satisfy our domestic market, and the rest of the world can simply go to hell. If it wasn't for a touch of continental chic in the corporate décor, most English publishers, it seems, wouldn't touch translation with a barge-pole. If Britain is proud of its cultural diversity, it would be fair to ask why it does not extend it.

Add to this the seeming despondency or even aversion to self-promotion outside Wales at the heart of Welsh affairs, and you can imagine what kind of situation the Arts Council of Wales was up against when it decided to launch a number of projects in an attempt to breach the country's linguistic Offa's Dyke.

However, in the autumn of 1996, along with translator's fellowships and the Wales in London event, which saw readings by actress Sian Philips and Angharad Rees at the National Theatre, and Jan Morris, Robin Llywelyn and Emyr Humphreys amongst others in bookshops around the city, a literary translation development project was launched, now called Llenyddiaeth Cymru / Welsh Literature Abroad, loosely modelled on the Irish literature Exchange in Dublin or NORLA in Norway. With the aid of our translation grants, literature from Wales is being translated into all sorts of unexpected languages. *Un Nos Ola Leuad*, for example – the proto-postmodernist Welsh novel written by Caradog Prichard in the early 60's – has just appeared in a bilingual Penguin Modern Classics edition, and has so far been sold to Israeli, Danish, German, Spanish, Czech, French publishers as well as an American publisher.

Although assumptions are made, at least in minority literature studies, that there will always be a tendency for those writers who reflect the psychological tensions of a minoritised context to remain untranslated in favour of writers whose work harmonises with the mainstream, my experience points in the other direction – if a publisher is going to go to the extra costs of publishing a translation, then it is certainly not going to spend money on a work which could easily be found and published more cheaply in its own language. In this respect, the idiosyncrasy of much writing in Welsh, the very particular style of William Owen Roberts, Robin Llywelyn and Mihangel Morgan, makes them often more attractive to foreign publishers than a novel written in English of a type which could have been published anywhere between Aberystwyth, New York and London. This does not, of course, mean to say that the Anglo-Welsh novel is reduced to such a fate. On the contrary, I hope that persuading foreign publishers to regard Welsh writing in English not in relation to the London-based canon, but in its own terms, will be one of the achievements of Welsh literature abroad. The likes of Christopher Meredith, with his highly original and very different three novels, ranging from the post-industrial *Shifts* (1988) to the original take on historical fiction with *Griffi* (1991), and his most recent *Sidereal Time* (1998), clearly delineate a path which does not pause to pay its respect to the Amis-Barnes-McEwan south-east triangle.

Llenyddiaeth Cymru Dramor / Welsh Literature Abroad's other aim, in keeping with its new home at the Mercator-Media Centre at the University of Wales Aberystwyth, is to develop as a focal point for facilitating international networks between publishers, writers, translators and literature organisations. The Mosaic International Conference last autumn was a springboard for several new projects, including a partnership scheme to establish a European literature prize for the smaller territorial linguistic groups within Europe. The idea is that the prize should be given not to a particular literary work but to a living author for a body of literary work written mainly in the small or minority language. Another project is a publishing network between Wales, Ireland, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Greece, France and Catalunya whereby a series of novels under the working title the *New Europe* will be published in translation from amongst the lists of the participating publishers. Funding will be sought from the forthcoming Culture 2000 fund, as well as from the existing Ariane Programme.

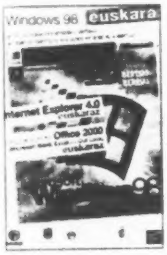
Sioned Puw Rowlands

Any organisation or individual interested in receiving further information about any of the above projects or about the work of Llenyddiaeth Cymru Dramor / Welsh Literature Abroad should get in touch with us at Mercator, Prifysgol Cymru Aberystwyth / University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2AU; tel : + 44 1970 622 544; fax : + 44 1970 622 190; snr@aber.ac.uk. Our Web site may also be visited at :
http://www.aber.ac.uk/~merwww/mosaic/

Saami Web

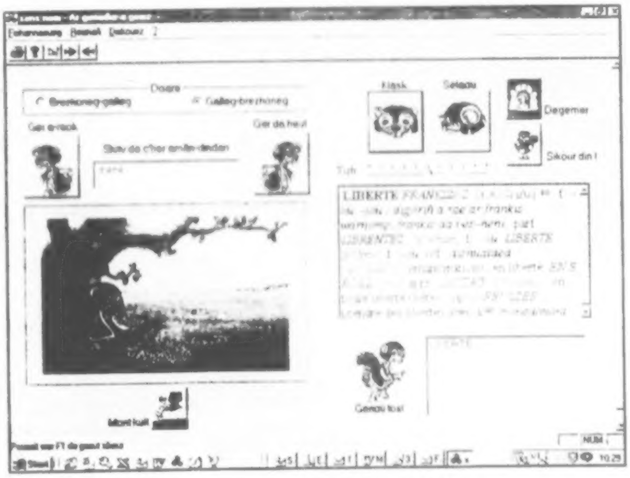
[illegible]

Minority languages and new technologies



A number of new projects incorporating new technology and minority languages have been implemented in recent years. Thanks to technological progress, new tools have been developed for the teaching, promotion and dissemination of minority languages.

An example of this is the first minority language vocal dictionary on CD-ROM, which was recently brought out in Breton. It was created by the publishing company TES in cooperation with the educational development centre, several research institutes and a number of volunteers. This CD-ROM is based on Francis Favereau's Breton-French dictionary. As well as consulting the dictionary, the user can also listen to the pronunciation of the entries in the Breton-French section. The vocal part of the CD-ROM was created using the MBROLA speech synthesis engine developed at Mons University by T. Dutoit. This technique has already been used for vocal dictionaries in a number of widely-spoken languages. Vocal synthesis is achieved using recordings of diphones, or acoustic units covering the basic sounds of a language. A series of meaningless words (logatomes), comprising the 3,000 diphones in the Breton language were recorded in a studio by the singer, Annie Ebrel. Tens of thousands of words were then reconstructed from these sounds by vocal synthesis. This project is supported by the European Union among others and has encouraged researchers from several European countries to compare their experiences. As well as making use of their links with Mons University and the Edinburgh CSTR, the producers of this CD-ROM worked in cooperation with G. O'Neill, a professor at Limerick University (Ireland), who is working on a similar project for Irish. TES and the IRISA are also intending to develop a prosody correction software package based on the repetition of pre-recorded sentences and a fully-automated dictation. The aim is to encourage students to work autonomously.



Ar Genadur a gomz. vocal dictionary on CD-Rom

Micro Application, the leading French company in the field of computer software and books, with annual sales of over 2 million products, has recently published *Guidexpress Windows 98 © e brezhoneg* and *Ar Genrouedad Didorr* (Internet made easy). These are the first computer guides to be brought out in Breton. With a circulation of 3,000 for the first issues, these 160 page colour publications have been translated into Breton by the Breton language department of the cultural institute of Brittany. Advocating the "right to express one's culture", the company chose Breton for this first minority language publication, "against the background of European construction and the growing legitimacy of minority languages in Europe".

A further example of the emergence of minority languages in the computing world is the launch of Windows 98 and Internet Explorer 4.0 in Basque. These products have been on sale since December in the Basque country. They were translated into Basque after an agreement was reached between the Basque Government and Microsoft at the beginning of 1998. The agreement also provides for the translation of the impending Office 2000 into Basque. The previous version of the operating system, Windows 95, has also been translated. The existence of Basque versions of this software is of considerable importance for the users. Once Office has been launched, Basque will be the main language of the most frequently-used software, from word processing packages to electronic mail. The Basque language will therefore be used in most computer communication. Defenders of minority languages place particular importance on the translation of this type of software. Dozens of new terms are created every day at the Microsoft localisation centre, based on the outskirts of Dublin in Ireland. Although the main emphasis is placed on the major European languages, minority languages other than Basque and Catalan, such as Slovenian and Finnish, which are in the minority in certain countries, are also replacing English in the localisation process.

Windows 98
e brezhoneg

These few examples demonstrate that numerous companies, often in association with institutional partners, are becoming increasingly interested in the technological applications and potential openings created by the entry of lesser used languages into the computing world.

Yann Rivallain

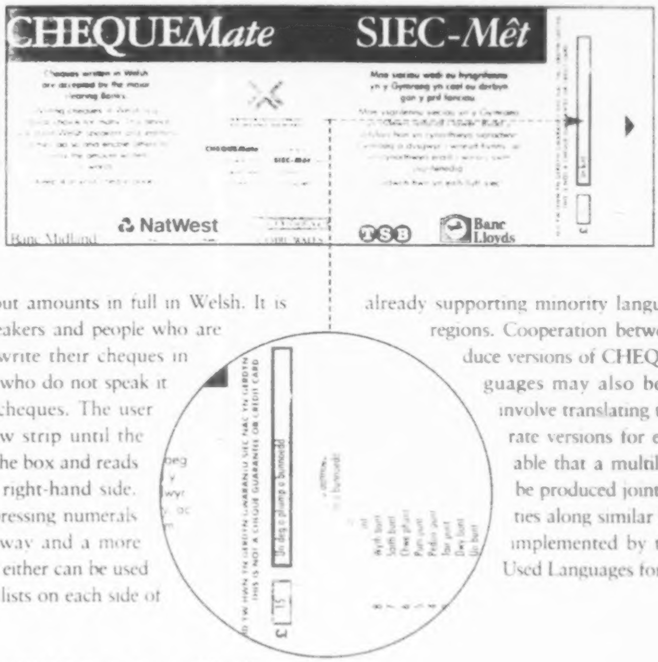
Additional information:

Ar geriadur a gomz, vocal **CD-ROM, Editions Skol Vreizh, 20, rue de Kerscoff, 29600 Morlaix. Price: 34 Euros (FRF 225).**

To order *Windows 98 e brezhoneg* and *Ar Genrouedad Didorr*: Micro Application, 20 – 22, rue des Petits-Hôtels, 75010 Paris, Tel: 01.53.34.20.18. Price: 11 Euros (FRF 72).

GO DDA MÊT!

"The simplest inventions are often the most successful!" This was the response of Elis Thomas, at the time Chairman of the Welsh Language Board, when it was announced that 10,000 additional copies of CHEQUE*Mate*/SIEC-*Mêt* were to be produced. Behind this enigmatic name lies an ingenious document in a simple format which has been designed to be slipped inside cheque books and used to write out amounts in full in Welsh. It is intended to help Welsh speakers and people who are learning the language to write their cheques in Welsh and to enable those who do not speak it to read and accept these cheques. The user simply pulls on the narrow strip until the desired number appears in the box and reads the amount in full on the right-hand side. There are two ways of expressing numerals in Welsh - the traditional way and a more recent decimal system - and either can be used by referring to the separate lists on each side of the strip.


CHEQUEMate
SIEC-Mêt
Cheques written in Welsh are accepted by the major clearing Banks
Mae sieciau wedi eu hysgrifennu yn y Gymraeg yn cael eu derbyn gan y prif fanciau
CHEQUEMate
SIEC-Mêt
NatWest
Banc Midland
TSB
Banc Lloyds

Fifteen thousand of these CHEQUE*Mates* were produced in April 1997, thanks to the exemplary cooperation between five well-known banks and the Welsh Language Board. Due to the remarkable success of the campaign, a further 10,000 copies were produced at the end of 1998. In addition to providing a service to users, CHEQUE*Mate* enables the banks involved to publicise their participation in the campaign and, more generally, in other initiatives to promote the Welsh language by adding their logo to the document.

This initiative is likely to attract the interest of numerous organisations working to promote lesser used languages in Europe, as well as the banking organisations which are already supporting minority languages in a number of European regions. Cooperation between several communities to produce versions of CHEQUE*Mate* in other lesser used languages may also be possible. This would simply involve translating the paper strip and printing separate versions for each language. It is also conceivable that a multilingual chequebook holder could be produced jointly by several language communities along similar lines as the cooperation methods implemented by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages for young people's books.

Yann Rivallain

EUSKARA

Davyth Hicks is a part-time lecturer at the Celtic Department of the University of Edinburgh and a campaign officer for the Cornish Language Society. He is also involved in research on the development and promotion of Celtic languages. He shares with us his views on the development of the Basque language:

New figures from the Autonomous Basque Region indicate a massive demand for Basque medium only education and, if current trends continue, the virtual disappearance of Spanish medium education . In one area of the autonomous part of the Basque country, Gipuzkoa, the Spanish medium known as Model A is to be withdrawn entirely as there were only 3 people asking for it. It is hoped that such demand will reflect in future numbers of speakers which have steadily increased, from 20% to over 25%, since 1979 when some autonomy was gained. This has only been achieved due to the political will and significant investment of the Basque Government.

Of the 20% people who spoke Basque in 1979, few could read or write it. Only 5% of primary school teachers could speak Euskara. One of the new government's first actions was to pass a comprehensive language act which listed the measures to restore the national tongue. A language board with a powerful Secretariat was established to implement them, and the strength of government determination was made manifest by the appointment of no less a person than Euskadi's president as chairman of the board.

Intensive immersion language courses (1,500 hours) were organised for school teachers to reach some fluency. By the end of 1987, 8,000 teachers had been released on full pay to attend long courses, with the result that 28% of primary school children were being taught through the medium of the native language. 90,000 adults attended language courses, taught by 1,500 professional teachers in nearly 500 language centres. Language courses for adults cost over £10 million in 1989. This work was supported by the publication of as many as 200 textbooks a year and hundreds of cassettes and videos. In the federal university of 42,000 students 25% of the courses are offered through Basque. Hundreds of university text books have been published for this purpose. This represented huge costs for the Basque Government, but it reflects their will and determination to revive their language after years of severe repression from Franco's fascist regime.

BIZKAIA
GIPUZKOA
LAPURDI
ZUBEROA
ARABA
NAFARROA

Significantly, the Basques have to deal with two states and their northern part, Ipparalde, is currently under French administration. As France continues in its policies of linguistic genocide, Basque is still under threat in this part. The facts from the southern Basque country show just how successful a well thought out and dynamic language policy can be.

To achieve these results the Basque Government set up a deputy ministry for language policy, set up as part of the Government's Culture Department. This co-ordinates and monitors Basque language policy and also lays down and develops the criteria which the Basque Government stipulates have to be followed by the Basque public administration.

Last year an interdepartmental and inter-institutional steering commission (comprising the three Departments of the Basque Government upon which the language planning bodies mentioned previously depend, the three provincial councils and the local councils of the three principal Basque cities) was created with a view to analysing and optimising the financial and human resources spent on language normalisation. Although the final results of the study which this commission is carrying out are not yet available, it should be pointed out that the amount of money spent by all the commission's participating departments and bodies is slightly over 80,5 million Euros per year.

> *In recent years, efforts have been concentrated on standardising and modernising Basque, creating a bilingual education system, introducing Basque in the media, the administration and private companies, and obtaining a complete picture of the country's sociolinguistic situation.*

Through research, they have managed to find out the main indicators of the country's sociolinguistic situation and also the strengths and weaknesses of the language normalisation process.

In recent years, efforts have been concentrated on standardising and modernising Basque, creating a bilingual education system, introducing Basque in the media, the administration and private companies, and obtaining a complete picture of the country's sociolinguistic situation.

It is in education that the figures are remarkable. In 1976, there were only 4.7% of primary teachers who could speak Basque. By 1996 this had risen to 67%, which shows the entry into the labour market of those trained in the Basque medium through the 1980's. Adult education figures are equally stunning. These schools are called 'Euskaltegiak', in 1995-96 there were 12,963,000 teaching hours, 44,855 pupils, 2,039 teachers and 160 schools. Added to this is a growth in media and an increasing use in public administration. Basque will develop further as it is increasingly embraced by the young.

These figures show Basque as the language of the community, and its use at home, all increasing and importantly this increase again is with the young. For example, it starts as a decline; 65% in those over 65, to 33% in the 25-34 age group, but recovers back up to 38% of those in the 16-24 age group. This is the age group educated in the 80's since autonomy.

The Basque Government sees the most important challenges over the coming years to include promoting the family transmission of the Basque language: intensifying the programmes in the education system and the teaching of Basque to adults aimed at incorporating new Basque speakers; improving the language ability of those who have come to the Basque language via the school system; progressively creating the necessary conditions for the language attitudes of public and private bodies to adapt to the needs of new generations; establishing language criteria in subsidy policies and the contracting of services from public institutions and revising the allocation of resources, not just economic but also human to guarantee the viability of strategically important projects.

After years of decline under Franco's fascist regime, there has been a significant turnaround in the number of speakers; the new native speakers are young, it has an increased use in the community, and at home where it counts, and it is led by a forward looking education system and government. A government prepared to research and then put the money where it is needed, all this only bodes well for the future of Euskara.

Davyth Hicks

A Scots Grammar

This handbook demonstrates the grammatical and idiomatic features of Scots, quoting examples from literature, proverbs, songs and colloquial speech to provide an invaluable resource for teachers and students. David Purves is a well-known writer to lovers of the Scots language and a former editor of Lalland, the journal of the Scots Languages Society and a past president of the same society. He is a prolific and successful writer in Scots. The objective of this book is to help Scots speakers to gather confidence and bring the language into serious use for the people of Scotland in the new millennium.

A Scots Grammar, Scots Grammar and Usage, David Purves, 1998. ISBN 0-85411-068-2. £ 7.99.

Strasbourg Colloquy

The acts of the colloquy organised by the Council of Europe on 26 and 27 March 1998 in Strasbourg to celebrate the coming into force of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (see C.B 14.3 June 1998) have been published by the Council of Europe's publishing department. This conference focused on the implementation of the Charter in the countries which had ratified it at the time and on the exchanges of views on the situation in other states.

ISBN : ISBN : 92-871-3774-9. Contact : Editions du Conseil de l'Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex. Available in French and English.

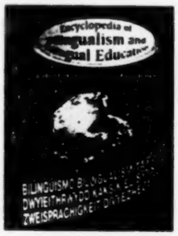
Discussion manual on lesser used languages

Is it right to render the use of some languages illegal through law? Are certain linguistic minorities in the European Union better protected than others? Would education through the medium of a minority language leave a child disadvantaged? In the form of eighty questions and answers, this guide addresses the most common issues concerning lesser used languages. Legal texts and international law are often drawn upon to provide these answers. The discussion manual will hopefully prove to be a useful tool for proponents of lesser used languages who can sometimes be at a loss for appropriate answers to questions posed by opponents, and also for ordinary members of the public, interested in the issue of linguistic diversity. The authors are Jordi Baneres and Miquel Strubell, respectively documentalist and director at the Catalan Institute of Sociolinguistics in Barcelona. Both are specialists in language planning.

This publication, which is available in both English and French, can be purchased from the Brussels Office of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. Price: 5 Euros.

East meets west : unity in diversity

In April 1998, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages and the European Centre for Modern Languages organised a workshop on the subject of *East meets west : unity in diversity*, in Graz in Austria. Its objective was to allow people dealing with minority languages in Central and Eastern Europe to meet their western counterparts. The report on this workshop can now be obtained from the European Centre for Modern Languages at the following address : ECML, Mozarthof, Schuberststrasse 29, A-8010 Graz, Austria. Tel : +43-316-32 35 54. Fax : +43-316-32 21 57. E-mail : ecml@via.at



Encyclopaedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education

This new illustrated encyclopaedia is one of the most comprehensive works available to date on bilingualism.

It gives a comprehensive presentation of essential information on a whole range of subjects related to bilingualism in societies and on an individual level.

It then proceeds to describe the various bilingual situations and education systems in the world. Instead of simply listing the various systems, this work examines specialised areas such as bilingual education and impaired people or bilingualism and new technology. This encyclopaedia deals with 17 main subjects and provides 228 profiles of languages used throughout the world, together with numerous illustrations and dozens of maps.

This work will raise awareness to the world's linguistic heritage whilst helping to do away with the stereotypes that are often associated with linguistic minorities. Written in a clear, understandable style, this encyclopaedia will certainly become a reference tool on the subject of bilingualism.

Encyclopaedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education, Multilingual Matters Ltd, Frankfurt Lodge, Clevedon Hall, Victoria Hall, Clevedon, BS21 7HH, UK. ISBN 1-83539-362-1. 758 pages.

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The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages seeks to conserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the European Union, together with their associated cultures. It is an independent body, registered as a limited company without share capital in Ireland, and an AI in Belgium. It works in close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament, member state institutions, the Council of Europe, the UN, UNESCO and other bodies in the furtherance of its aims. The Bureau is funded by subventions from the European Commission, the Irish Government, the Government of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Friesland, and the Germanophone Community in Belgium. Rent-free accommodation is provided for its Brussels office by the French-speaking Community in Belgium.

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Le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues

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Dans ce numéro

Catalunya et Kosovo

Conférence à Belfast

Traduction littéraire au pays de Galles

Littérature italienne et minorités

Langues minoritaires et informatique

Signature de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires par les Etats membres

Allemagne	Luxembourg
Autriche	Ex-Rép. Youg.
Chypre	de Macédoine
Croatie	Malte
Danemark	Norvège
Espagne	Pays-Bas
Finlande	Roumanie
France	Slovénie
Hongrie	Suisse
Liechtenstein	Ukraine

Ratification de la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires par les Etats membres

Allemagne	
Croatie	
Finlande	
Hongrie	
Liechtenstein	
Pays-Bas	
Norvège	
Suisse	

La signature de la charte ou de toute convention de ce type implique un accord avec les principes qu'elle énonce et doit normalement aboutir à sa ratification.

Pour plus de renseignements
www.coe.fr/eng/legaltxt/148e.htm
www.coe.fr/fr/txtjur/148f.htm

Une agence de presse pour les minorités

Un pas important a été franchi vers la réalisation d'un des souhaits les plus anciens des communautés de langues minoritaires en Europe, à l'occasion de l'adoption par le Conseil d'administration du BELMR, soutenu par la Commission européenne, d'un projet pilote pour la création d'une agence de presse pour les langues régionales et minoritaires. La phase préparatoire commencera au deuxième semestre 99 et la phase opérationnelle au début de l'année 2000.

Prof. Tom Mooring, animant le séminaire sur l'agence de presse

L'ambition du projet est triple : Remédier à l'absence d'informations ou à l'image négative des minorités donnée dans la presse et les médias en langues majoritaires ; les minorités ne sont pas toujours synonymes de problèmes, de bonnes nouvelles doivent également être diffusées.

Faire circuler des informations régulières sur les minorités dans la presse et les médias en langues minoritaires. Ceci constitue un des aspects du processus de création de réseaux paneuropéens qui se manifeste dans de nombreux domaines.

Permettre une meilleure communication entre les institutions européennes et les quarante millions de citoyens qui parlent ces langues régionales et minoritaires.

Un tel projet est-il viable ? De quelle manière doit-on procéder ? Voici deux questions parmi d'autre [illegible] ont été abordées en détail au cours d'un sér[illegible] préparatoire de deux jours qui s'est tenu à L[illegible]es les 12 et 13 mars. Tom Moring, professeur de journalisme à Helsinki, a animé ce séminaire en interrogeant différents experts avant de permettre à ceux-ci d'échanger leurs points de vues avec les participants. Les questions de politique et de contenu éditorial, les aspects économiques, légaux et techniques ont également été couverts.
Outre les représentants du BELMR, de Mercator-Média, de la presse, de la radio et de la télévision en langue minoritaire, le séminaire a bénéficié de la présence de participants de médias majoritaires, tels que Reuters, *The Financial Times* et la BBC. Leur présence s'est avérée fort utile car elle a permis d'aborder les difficultés réelles rencontrées lorsque l'on tente d'attirer l'attention des grands médias sur les minorités.

L'agence de presse sera-t-elle reconnue comme telle ou perçue comme un outil de relation publique au service d'un groupe de pression parmi tant d'autres, tels que Greenpeace ou Amnesty ? Une organisation intimement liée au Bureau sera au départ inévitablement perçue comme un groupe de pression, tout au moins par les médias en langues majoritaires. Il a donc semblé primordial que les articles soient rédigés par des journalistes professionnels dans les différentes communautés linguistiques, respectant l'éthique de la profession, notamment dans la présentation de l'ensemble des faits et des différents points du vue. Toute opinion exprimée par le BELMR sera présentée en tant que telle au même titre que d'autres points de vue. L'objectif est de fournir une couverture plus étendue et plus objective des questions liées aux minorités dans les médias et de ne pas privilégier des points de vue particuliers sur certains sujets.

Il ne s'agit pas d'aborder ici les considérations techniques qui ont été abordées de manière extrêmement instructive et détaillée par les experts catalans et slovènes – est-il nécessaire de préciser que le réseau Internet jouera un rôle déterminant dans cette opération, dont les coûts devront rester minimum?
Huit communautés linguistiques devraient participer à la phase pilote du projet. Si tout se déroule comme prévu, toutes les autres communautés de langues moins répandues de l'Union européenne les rejoindront par la suite.

Ned Thomas

Bilinguisme à l'école maternelle: **Plattdeutsch**

Si la majorité des Frisons de l'est souhaitent sauvegarder leur langue, seuls 10% des enfants l'apprennent. L'Institut de Frise orientale, un institut régional consacré à la science, à la culture et à l'éducation a mené une expérience intitulée « bilinguisme à l'école maternelle » avec des enfants âgés de 3 à 6 ans. Au cours de l'année 1997-1998, douze écoles maternelles (613 enfants) ont participé à l'expérience. Pour l'année scolaire en cours, 32 écoles (environ 2000 enfants) participent toutes volontairement au projet. Cet esprit de volontariat est déterminant, dans la mesure où il n'existe pas encore de base légale contraignante pour le travail bilingue dans les écoles primaires en Allemagne. Cette situation ne devrait pas évoluer avec l'entrée en vigueur de la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires au 1er décembre 1998. A plus long terme, l'enseignement bilingue dans les écoles primaires devra néanmoins recevoir une protection légale afin de lui permettre d'être reconnu comme marque de qualité.

Les projets visant à mettre en place des écoles primaires monolingues en langue régionale ont été gelés afin d'entraîner un maximum de soutien pour l'enseignement bilingue. Au cours de la première année, l'accent a été mis sur l'information et la participation des parents. Cette stratégie s'est avérée payante, comme l'a démontré le haut niveau de participation et les réactions positives suscitées par cette expérience. Elle a également eu des répercussions à l'intérieur des familles : certains parents ont ainsi commencé à parler à leurs enfants en *Plattdeutsch*. A long terme, il sera peut-être possible de développer des modèles plus ambitieux (écoles maternelles monolingues en langue régionale par exemple).

Des équipes d'institutrices ont été consultées avant le lancement de cette expérience. Les différentes méthodes en cours dans l'enseignement bilingue leur ont été présentées. Sur la base de ces informations, elles ont ensuite créé leur propre programme de travail particulier pour les écoles maternelles. La plupart de ces écoles ont fait le choix d'un système dans lequel chaque groupe d'enfants est pris en charge par deux personnes. L'une s'adresse aux enfants en allemand standard, l'autre en *Plattdeutsch*. Certaines d'entre elles ont fait le choix d'un système de tranches horaires pendant lesquelles l'une ou l'autre des deux langues est exclusivement utilisée. Confrontées à un manque de personnel parlant *Plattdeutsch*, d'autres ont mené des expériences avec l'aide de collaborateurs extérieurs (mères ou grand-mères parlant *Plattdeutsch*) et de « parrains linguistiques ».

Le thème central de la deuxième année d'expérimentation, outre le développement de matériel didactique, portera sur la manière de poursuivre l'enseignement bilingue dans le primaire. En Allemagne, les écoles maternelles et les écoles primaires sont administrées par des ministères différents et ne suivent pas toutes les mêmes principes pédagogiques. Un travail initial considérable reste à faire pour garantir une transition harmonieuse d'un établissement à un autre.

Cornelia Nath

Responsable du département langue régionale de l'Institut de Frise orientale

Harmoniser Babel

Les minorités linguistiques réclament une plus grande présence dans les médias italiens

Les minorités linguistiques d'Italie souhaitent que le concessionnaire de service public, RAI (le service national de radiodiffusion et télévision italien), leur accorde une plus grande place dans les médias. Aujourd'hui, sur les douze minorités historiques reconnues en Italie, quatre seulement bénéficient d'une diffusion dans leur propre langue à la radio et à la télévision. Les autres n'ont aucune voix dans le domaine des mass-médias. Même les communautés qui sont représentées à la radio et à la télévision (les Allemands et les Ladins dans la région du Trentino/Tyrol du Sud, les Slovènes en Frioul-Vénétie Julienne et les Français dans le Val d'Aoste) ne sont pas satisfaites : la place accordée à leur langue varie considérablement. En ce qui concerne la télévision par exemple, le temps d'antenne varie des 550 heures d'antenne garanties chaque année à la communauté allemande aux 39 heures dont bénéficient les Ladins. Le financement accordé par l'Etat varie aussi, des quelque 30 milliards de lires accordés à la RAI du Trentin/Haut-Adige aux sept milliards de lires attribués à la station du Frioul-Vénétie Julienne. Les minorités exigent davantage de cohérence et de coordination. Elles demandent à la RAI de dresser un plan rédactionnel et industriel global pour mettre fin à la fragmentation et à la précarité actuelles. Elles invitent également l'Etat à respecter la *Convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales* du Conseil de l'Europe que le Parlement italien a déjà ratifiée. La Convention prévoit des mesures adéquates pour que les minorités puissent accéder plus facilement aux médias.

La question de la radio et de la télévision a fait l'objet d'un débat et d'une analyse lors d'une convention qui a eu lieu à Bolzano à la fin du mois de mars. Cet événement a été organisé par CONFEMILI, le comité italien du BELMR, et par USIGRAI, le syndicat des journalistes de la RAI, et a été financé par la Commission européenne et la province de Bolzano. Pour la première fois, les minorités ont pu présenter ensemble leurs revendications aux dirigeants de la RAI. Tous les cadres supérieurs du service public de diffusion ont participé à la réunion, du président Roberto Zaccaria, au directeur de RAI 2, Giovanni Tantillo, en passant par le membre du Conseil d'Administration, Stefano Balassone et le directeur de RAI 3 Informations, Ennio Chiodi. Si leur présence témoignait d'un intérêt appréciable pour la question des minorités dans le domaine des médias, il n'en reste pas moins que leur discours n'a pas entièrement satisfait les participants. En effet, les dirigeants de la RAI maintiennent que les transmissions en langues minoritaires doivent être financées directement par les services du Premier ministre italien par le biais d'accords spéciaux alors que les minorités pensent que la RAI doit offrir des retransmissions spécifiques vu son rôle de service public. « Nous payons notre redevance, comme les autres citoyens italiens », a déclaré Domenico Morelli, le président de CONFEMILI, « et par conséquent nous avons le même droit à des émissions en langue maternelle». C'est également l'opinion du député du Val d'Aoste, Luciano Caveri, qui a rappelé le Contrat de service existant entre le ministère des Communications italien et le service public de radiotélévision. Quels que soient les accords passés, ce contrat oblige la RAI à assurer « une programmation qui respecte les droits des minorités linguistiques dans les régions auxquelles elles appartiennent ».

Au cours de la convention dans le Sud Tyrol, un tour d'horizon européen a été présenté par le président de l'Intergroupe pour les minorités linguistiques du Parlement européen, Joan Vallvé, qui a mis en lumière le statut exemplaire dont bénéficie la télévision catalane. Un des résultats les plus importants auxquels la réunion a abouti se situe cependant au plus petit échelon territorial: les petites communautés linguistiques des régions italiennes et les journalistes du service public ont créé des contacts et établi des rapports qui vont immédiatement entraîner la création de nouveaux services et programmes de radio et de télévision en langues minoritaires, quelles que soient les relations avec la direction. Le droit d'être informé et le droit d'informer ont conquis une voix sur les ondes à Bolzano.

Ivana Suhadolc

Télé-Breizh verra le jour l'an prochain

La télé bretonne verra bien le jour au début de l'année 2000 près de Lorient. Une annonce en ce sens a été faite au cours du Festival de cinéma et de télévision des pays celtiques qui s'est tenu fin mars en Ecosse. Après plusieurs mois de consultation et plusieurs visites au pays de Galles et en Ecosse pour y étudier le fonctionnement des chaînes de télévision bilingues, Patrick le Lay, par ailleurs PDG de TF1, serait actuellement en passe de boucler le montage financier afin de constituer un capital de 300 à 400 millions de francs.

Pour être viable, la chaîne à péage compte sur un minimum de 200 000 abonnés. Elle sera diffusée dans toute l'Europe par satellite. La grille de programmes devrait notamment proposer des magazines régionaux, des séries sous-titrées, des *talk-shows*, du sport et des émissions en direct.

La place exacte des programmes en breton n'est pas encore précisée. Outre les émissions en direct ou sous-titrées, il semble également que des émissions destinées aux publics souhaitant apprendre le breton soient prévues. Une partie des programmes sera diffusée, en fonction de l'actualité, à partir des studios de Nantes ou de Locarn.

Yann Rivallain

Evénement pour la sortie d'un livre multilingue à Belfast

Mo Mowlan lors de la présentation de *Rejoice in your own work*

La publication de *Rejoice in your own works*, une adaptation moderne du célèbre passage du *Livre de l'Ecclesiaste* [III, 2-8], « ...un temps pour la semence, un temps pour la récolte, un temps pour la guerre, un temps pour la paix », a été célébrée à Belfast le 25 janvier 1999. L'éditeur, Philomel Production Ltd, avait requis une aide de la part du Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues en raison de la nature particulière de cet ouvrage.

Rejoice in you own works présente les textes bibliques, accompagnes de leur adaptation moderne en cinq langues : irlandais, scots d'Ulster, gallois, gaélique d'Ecosse et anglais. Le texte est signé de l'écrivain grec Ange S. Vlachos et les dessins qui illustrent cet ouvrage ont été réalisés par le frère de l'auteur, Paul S. Vlachos. Cette publication est destinée aux enfants. Un espace leur est réservé pour écrire leur propre version et réaliser leurs propres illustrations.

Un exemplaire de cet ouvrage a été offert au Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Irlande du Nord, Dr. Mo Mowlam, par deux enfants, Anna Andrews, irlandophone, et Beth Robinson, dont la langue est le scots. Dr. Mo Mowlam, après avoir décrit la réunion de ces deux communautés de langues moins répandues à l'occasion de cette présentation comme un événement merveilleux, a félicité les personnes travaillant au respect de la diversité linguistique. « La culture d'un peuple est un élément vivant», a-t-elle ajoutée, «elle ne peut pas être remisée dans une armoire et dissimulée ».

REJOICE IN YOUR OWN WORKS, Philomel Productions Ltd, 1999. ISBN 1 898685 31 2. Contact : Philomel Productions Ltd., 1 Queen's Gate Place Mews, London SW7 5BG.

Dónall Ó Riagain

Succès important pour la conférence de Belfast

Le City Hall de Belfast a été choisi pour accueillir une conférence majeure sur le thème Notre patrimoine linguistique européen. Cette conférence a été organisée en octobre par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues en association avec Ultacht Trust et la société pour le Scots d'Ulster.

Les accords multipartites concernant le futur de l'Irlande du Nord, baptisés communément « Accords du Vendredi Saint », date de leur adoption, contiennent un certain nombre de paragraphes favorables à la langue et à la culture. Cette lueur d'espoir a été concrétisée en juin dernier lorsque le gouvernement britannique a annoncé son intention de signer et de ratifier la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires. Le Bureau a estimé qu'à un tournant aussi décisif de l'histoire de l'Irlande du nord, il pouvait contribuer à la définition d'une politique linguistique en introduisant une dimension européenne par le biais d'un événement au cours duquel les promoteurs des langues irlandaises et scots d'Ulster pourraient prendre connaissance des actions menées en faveur d'autres langues moins répandues d'Europe. Le sous-comité d'Irlande du Nord et l'équipe du Bureau de Dublin prit l'initiative et fut rapidement rejoint par *Ulster Trust (Ionthaobhas)*, un organisme linguistique intercommunautaire et la Société pour la langue scots d'Ulster.

Les organisateurs avaient initialement prévu un événement modeste rassemblant trente à quarante participants. 222 personnes ont en définitive participé à la conférence. On a relevé parmi les participants, outre les militants en faveur de ces langues, des parlementaires, un certain nombre de membres de la nouvelle assemblée d'Irlande du Nord ainsi que des conseillers, des hauts fonctionnaires, des représentants d'organisations culturelles, éducatives et religieuses. Le Conseil municipal de Belfast avait mis son hall principal à disposition et le Lord-Maire a offert une réception et un buffet aux participants.

Les intervenants principaux ont été Philip Blair, Directeur adjoint du cabinet privé du Secrétaire général du Conseil de

Le Lord Maire de Belfast, David Alderdice, saluant Nick Gardner de la Communauté autonome basque. A ses côtes, Ann Mc Quiston, présidente du sous comite nord-irlandais du Bureau, Alex Riemersma membre frison du Conseil d'administration du Bureau et le Sénateur Micheal Hayes qui a animé la conférence

l'Europe, Dr Alex Riemersma, de Bерia foar it Fryske, également membre du Conseil d'administration du Bureau, Prof. Colin Williams, de l'Université du pays de Galles à Cardiff, Nick Gardner, du ministère de l'Enseignement du Gouvernement autonome basque, Allan Campbell, de Comunn na Gàidhlig et Président du Comité d'Etat membre du Bureau pour le Royaume-Uni, ainsi que Stuart McHardy, du centre de ressources pour la langue scots. La conférence était présidée par le sénateur Maurice Hayes, ancien médiateur pour l'Irlande du Nord.

Philip Blair a évoqué la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires et a donné une explication détaillée de la nature et du contenu de la Charte ainsi que de son mode de ratification. Alex Riemersma lui a succédé en présentant les Pays-Bas comme étude de cas pour la mise en œuvre de la Charte. Il a souligné que le rapport au Conseil de l'Europe a été préparé, non pas par l'administration mais par un organisme académique indépendant. Il a conclu sa présentation en donnant un aperçu de la situation linguistique en Frise. Le succès du système éducatif basque du point de vue linguistique est une source d'admiration pour de nombreuses autres communautés de langues moins répandues. Nick Gardner, Chargé de planification linguistique au ministère de l'Education a livré aux participants une description fascinante de l'expérience basque. La planification linguistique au niveau local est un domaine auquel le Welsh Language Board consacre une grande partie de son expertise et de ses ressources depuis un certain temp. Prof. Colin Williams, un des acteurs principaux dans ce domaine, a exposé l'expérience galloise aux participants. Plus près de l'Irlande du Nord, Allan Campbell a expliqué la manière dont Commun na Gàidhlig s'efforçait de consolider les progrès récents réalisés en faveur du gaélique d'Ecosse par le biais de sa campagne pour un statut garanti en faveur de la langue. Le dernier intervenant, Stuart Mc Hardy, a prononcé un vibrant discours et appelé à une plus grande coopération entre les personnes œuvrant pour le scots en Ecosse et celles qui œuvrent pour le scots d'Ulster en Irlande du Nord.

Un débat a ensuite été ouvert à tous et les intervenants ont répondu aux différentes questions. Ce sont parfois les discussions informelles qui ont eu lieu durant les pauses qui ont été les plus significatives. Les membres des deux communautés divisées ont en effet eu l'occasion - la première pour certains – d'échanger leurs points de vues sur les problèmes linguistiques.

Dónall Ó Riagáin

Gaélique au Parlement écossais

Le gaélique sera une des langues officielles du Parlement écossais. Ce verdict a été rendu par le Groupe consultatif de pilotage du Parlement écossais. Ce groupe est chargé de rédiger le règlement intérieur du Parlement. Son rapport de 170 pages, portant sur la forme à donner au parlement, intitulé « *Shaping Scotland's parliament* » a été publié à la mi-janvier. Un résumé sous forme de brochure publiée en gaélique et dans les cinq langues minoritaires ethniques les plus utilisées en Ecosse sera diffusé prochainement.

Si l'anglais sera la langue usuelle du parlement écossais, l'utilisation du gaélique sera autorisée pour peu qu'un avertissement préalable ait été transmis au Président. Un équipement pour l'interprétation simultanée des discours en gaélique sera disponible et ces discours seront reproduits dans les deux langues dans les rapports officiels du parlement (Hansard). Dans la mesure où il est improbable que de nombreux locuteurs du gaélique soient élus au Parlement, ces installations ont peu de chances d'être souvent utilisées. De manière plus évidente pour le grand public, la signalisation à l'intérieur du parlement sera bilingue gaélique/anglais comme l'a recommandé le groupe de pilotage. Le centre public d'information du parlement devra également produire des bulletins d'informations visant spécifiquement la population parlant le gaélique. Ces propositions ont rencontré un accueil chaleureux de la part des associations gaéliques qui ont exercé de nombreuses pressions pour parvenir à ce résultat.

Les groupes gaéliques sont cependant déçus par le fait qu'aucune disposition n'est prévue dans le rapport concernant la mise en place d'un comité ou d'un délégué parlementaire gaélique, comme l'avait recommandé l'agence nationale de développement du gaélique, *Commun na Gaidhlig*. La possibilité pour les administrés de correspondre avec leurs députés en gaélique et de recevoir une réponse en gaélique n'est pas non plus abordée dans ce rapport. Le Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Ecosse considère que les décisions sur ces questions devront être prises par le nouveau Parlement lui-même.

La nouvelle la plus décevante pour les groupes gaéliques est qu'il n'y aura aucun poste important impliquant l'utilisation du gaélique au Parlement. Il n'y aura pas de traducteurs professionnels et l'interprétation simultanée sera réalisée par des volontaires non formés. Il est probable que la traduction des documents soit prise en charge par des contractants extérieurs. Le journal *The Scotsman* a rapporté récemment que les membres désireux d'utiliser le gaélique devront donner un préavis de 48 heures. Ceci est une source de désillusion considérable pour les défenseurs du gaélique. Certaines organisations de promotion de la langue tels que *Commun na Gàidhlig* et *Comann an Luchd-Ionnsachaidh* (l'association des étudiants du gaélique) tentent de s'opposer à cette décision et appellent le gouvernement à renforcer la position du gaélique au Parlement.

Alasdair MacCaluim

Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires

Les choses progressent en Belgique

La décision des Pays-Bas, qui ont inscrit le francique limbourgeois dans leur instrument de ratification de la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires, semble avoir été suivie avec intérêt par la Communauté flamande de Belgique. Cette langue régionale est aussi d'usage dans ce dernier pays, dans la Province du Limbourg, où cette communauté exerce ses compétences.

Jusqu'à présent, cette instance officielle de l'Etat fédéral belge ne s'était guère préoccupée du sujet même si elle ne s'opposait pas au concept de protection et de promotion des parlers régionaux qu'elle avait tendance à assimiler à des dialectes.

Ceci a permis de relancer le processus qui mènera, on l'espère, à la signature et à la ratification conséquente de cette Charte par la Belgique. Des séances de travail ont rassemblé des responsables des trois communautés (Communauté française, Communauté flamande et Communauté germanique), séances aux cours desquelles une liste des articles et alinéas pouvant figurer dans l'instrument de ratification belge de cette Charte a été étudiée. Cette liste a été mise au point par le Conseil des langues régionales endogènes de la Communauté française de Belgique, l'instance consultative de cette communauté en matière de « parlers régionaux ».

Entre-temps, le ministère fédéral de la Justice a également été informé du contenu de cette liste à propos de laquelle il ne voit pas d'opposition majeure.

A l'issue de la dernière réunion en date, les participants ont souhaité que la signature de la Charte soit mise à l'ordre du jour du Groupe des Traités mixtes de la Commission interministérielle de Politique étrangère. Cette proposition a été agréée et tous ceux qui s'activent pour que cette charte soit enfin signée par la Belgique ont repris espoir.

Pacyince, li queuwe dy tchét a bé fini par crèche !

Pour ceux qui ne pratiquent pas le wallon : patience, la queue du chat a bien fini par pousser.

Jean-Luc FAUCONNIER

Cour européenne de justice et droits linguistiques

Les citoyens dont la langue maternelle est l'allemand ont le droit d'utiliser leur langue dans les tribunaux dans le Haut-Adige, y compris lorsqu'ils ne résident pas dans la province de Bolzano. Telle est la substance d'un jugement prononcé par la Cour de Justice de Luxembourg. Ce jugement polémique intervient à la suite d'une action intentée par Karl Zeller, député du Haut-Adige. Ce jugement a eu un certain retentissement car il s'agissait du premier verdict rendu par la Cour de Justice européenne concernant les minorités.

Le litige original prend sa source dans un procès qui s'est tenu à la Cour de district de Silando dans le Val Venosta (près de la frontière avec l'Autriche). Un touriste allemand nommé Franz Ulrich avait été arrêté à la frontière au moment où il s'apprêtait à entrer en Italie avec un couteau de trop longue taille ; le conducteur du camion autrichien Hans Otto Bickel avait été arrêté en état d'alcoolémie au volant de son véhicule. Ne parlant pas italien, tous deux avaient demandé que l'audience ait lieu en allemand. Ce droit avait déjà été accordé aux citoyens du Haut Adige à l'occasion d'un règlement entré en vigueur au début des années 90. Cependant, l'Etat italien avait soutenu la thèse que ce droit – celui de pouvoir choisir la langue du procès – ne s'appliquait pas aux personnes ne résidant pas dans la province. En conséquence, les tribunaux de districts près des frontières se sont souvent trouvés dans la situation absurde où le procès de citoyens ayant l'allemand pour langue maternelle se déroulait en italien, un interprète aidant les prévenus, alors que leur avocat et le juge étaient tous deux de langue maternelle allemande.

Dans sa question préliminaire, Zeller, en tant que conseiller officiel de défense pour les accusés Bickel et Ulrich a souligné l'incompatibilité des supposées normes avec la liberté d'emploi et de circulation à l'intérieur de l'Union européenne, outre le statut de citoyens de l'Union européenne des accusés.

Dans son jugement, la Cour a entièrement pris en compte les critiques émises par Zeller et établit que le droit d'utiliser sa propre langue maternelle, sur la base du critère de bien fondé, ne pouvait pas être refusé aux citoyens de l'Union européenne qui ne sont pas résidents dans la province de Bolzano.

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En Bref

La Catalogne pour le Kosovo

La fondation catalane CIEMEN fait partie des nombreuses ONG qui, en Catalogne et dans le reste du monde, apportent une aide humanitaire au Kosovo et aux réfugiés kosovars. L'originalité de l'action menée par CIEMEN est une nouvelle fois d'ajouter une dimension culturelle et linguistique à son programme d'aide.

S'appuyant sur des fonds promis à une série d'organisations catalanes, le programme de CIEMEN comporte trois dimensions :

La fourniture de nourriture et de médicaments. Au moment où nous écrivions cet sera article, fin mars, deux camions étaient déjà partis.

Deuxièmement, un programme sera mis en place pour faire connaître au public catalan la langue et la culture du Kosovo. Des professeurs kosovars seront invités à participer à des formations courtes à l'Université et lorsque cela sera de nouveau possible, des échanges d'étudiants seront organisés.

Troisièmement, si comme tout semble l'indiquer, un afflux de réfugiés vers la Catalogne se confirme, un programme sera mis en place pour leur permettre de se sentir chez eux et apprendre à connaître la Catalogne. Cette initiative fait écho à une opération semblable déjà réalisée avec une centaine de réfugiés bosniaques qui sont retournés chez eux depuis.

CIEMEN espère ainsi combiner la nécessité d'une aide d'urgence à court terme à un souci éducatif à long terme afin d'aider ces personnes à connaître et accepter les cultures de l'autre. Il ne fait aucun doute que l'absence de politiques linguistiques et culturelles tolérantes est à l'origine de la crise actuelle au Kosovo.

Contact Bulletin

«Haapar, la neige des alouettes »

Littérature italienne et minorités : des voix pour une nouvelle identité

Des langues oubliées et méprisées, reléguées pendant des années au milieu familial, sont soudainement apparues dans l'intrigue de romans et de récits figurant en tête des meilleurs ventes de livres. Des expressions idiomatiques qui avaient disparu et étaient ignorées des médias ont recommencé à faire des apparitions furtives sous la plume des auteurs les plus soucieux des racines et de l'identité des citoyens de l'Italie. En matière de littérature, on soupçonne de plus en plus que tous les Italiens ne sont pas forcément locuteurs de la langue de Dante. Cette diversité, autrefois ressentie comme un handicap est de plus en plus considérée comme un atout culturel. L'uniformité linguistique, qui fut un jour appréciée en tant qu'élément d'unification nationale est désormais rejetée car elle est une marque de pauvreté de l'expression.

Le cimbre est une langue encore parlée par un petit nombre de personnes dans les vallées alpestres de la Vénétie et du Trentin. Aujourd'hui, Mario Rigoni Stern, le poète vénérable du plateau d'Asiago, vient nous rappeler la richesse et la souplesse de cette langue, avec trois histoires dans son dernier recueil, *Sentieri sotto la neve* (Chemins sous la neige), publié par Einaudi. Il n'y a qu'un seul mot pour dire « neige » en italien et on est obligé d'ajouter un adjectif pour la décrire : neige fraîche, neige poudreuse, neige humide, neige ancienne, etc. Mais les Cimbres, un peuple montagnard, avaient des mots différents et précis pour chaque type de neige et chacun de ces mots pouvait exprimer à lui seul des situations très différentes. *Brüskalan*, par exemple, indique la première neige de l'hiver; *snea*, c'est la neige qui tombe doucement et abondamment; et *haapar*, la neige qui tombe avec le premier chant de l'alouette. Rigoni Stern, un archéologue passionné du cimbre, observe et prend des notes et ses histoires ne se limitent pas aux nuances infinies de la neige. Il recherche aussi l'identité du peuple dans la toponymie ou dans le système tout à fait particulier de numérotage autrefois utilisé dans les villages cimbres, une façon singulière et très originale de compter.

Faisons maintenant route vers le sud, des Alpes à la Méditerranée. Dans son dernier roman, *Otranto*, publié par Mondadori, un écrivain piémontais de 37 ans seulement a introduit du « grico » (grec parlé dans la région de Salento) dans l'italien. Les auteurs-archéologues ou ceux qui descendent directement de groupes ethniques différents ne sont donc pas les seuls à être fascinés par les langues minoritaires négligées par les journaux et la télévision qui sortent aujourd'hui de l'ombre, pour ceux qui se donnent la peine d'écouter. Dans *Otranto*, le « grico » fait surface dans la mémoire, résonne dans les souvenirs et vient avec arrogance s'imposer à l'héroïne du roman, une restauratrice hollandaise qui arrive dans les Pouilles et y retrouve les fils cachés et insoupçonnés de son histoire familiale, dont ce lien primordial avec son passé : la langue.

Des mots ou de courtes phrases en cimbre ou en greco enrichissent ces deux livres en humus et en profondeur. Mis à part ces exemples, qui restent des cas isolés, c'est la langue italienne elle-même qui a tendance à se transformer. L'afflux de mots provenant de langues et de dialectes autrefois strictement interdits est de mieux en mieux accepté. Cette année, l'auteur à succès en Italie est Andrea Camilleri dont les romans à suspense passionnants sont imprégnés par la Sicile et renferment des locutions propres à la langue sicilienne. Sans craindre d'être inintelligible, Camilleri n'hésite pas à écrire comme il parle. Désireux d'utiliser des mots qui « lui appartenaient totalement », il a rencontré un énorme succès. Les langues considérées à tort ou à raison comme des dialectes sont en train de réapparaître aujourd'hui et connaissent même une certaine renaissance littéraire. Leur dignité littéraire retrouvée, soutenue par de fortes ventes, renforce les convictions de ceux qui font campagne pour promouvoir les langues moins répandues. L'italien lui-même ainsi que sa littérature, lorsqu'ils cessent de redouter la diversité et acceptent l'enrichissement et la contamination, se découvrent une nouvelle vitalité.

Ivana Suhadolc

Traduction littéraire au pays de Galles

Il est fréquent d'oublier que l'objet de la traduction n'est pas uniquement de permettre la lecture du *best-seller* de l'année à venir. Elle est avant tout un instrument de communication interculturelle et continue à jouer un rôle capital dans la production de significations morales et politiques, voire dans la construction même d'identités nationales. Non pas que les écrivains soient purement et simplement des ambassadeurs pour leur culture ou leur nation. Ils produisent, au contraire, leur propre logique. Il n'en reste pas moins qu'un écrivain est le produit, conscient ou inconscient, d'un contexte culturel, historique et géographique.

Le traducteur semble souvent destiné à choisir entre trahir ou rester invisible. Ceci est valable pour la majeure partie de la littérature traduite. Nous savons tous que la Grande-Bretagne est une des pires coupables. Les statistiques à cet égard ne manquent pas. La plupart des éditeurs en Allemagne, ainsi qu'en Espagne et en Italie, ont renoncé à essayer de pénétrer le marché de la littérature britannique. En Grande-Bretagne, 3% seulement des ouvrages de fiction qui sont publiés sont des traductions, par rapport à quelque 20 ou 25% en France. Une enquête du ministère français de la Culture a révélé que plus de la moitié des étudiants de licence dans les universités britanniques étaient incapables de nommer spontanément un seul écrivain français.

Cette résistance aux traductions littéraires est d'autant plus paradoxale que les Britanniques tirent une grande fierté de leur diversité culturelle. L'argument le plus souvent utilisé est que la littérature anglophone est déjà tellement « richement diverse », surtout grâce à l'ancien empire britannique, qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de traduire quoi que ce soit. Autrement dit, parce qu'on a enseigné l'anglais à certains membres de l'élite dans les anciennes colonies et parce qu'une infime minorité d'entre eux sont devenus, à raison, des auteurs à succès international, nous avons suffisamment « d'exotisme » pour satisfaire notre marché intérieur et le reste du monde peut bien aller au diable. Si ce n'était pour la touche de chic continental que confèrent les traductions à leur image de marque, il semble que la plupart des éditeurs britanniques n'y toucheraient pas même avec des pincettes. Si la Grande-Bretagne est fière de sa diversité culturelle, on peut se demander pourquoi elle ne l'étend pas.

Lorsque on ajoute le découragement, voire l'aversion pour l'auto-promotion au delà des frontières du pays de Galles qui caractérisent les affaires galloises, on peut dès lors imaginer la situation à laquelle s'est heurté le Conseil des Activités culturelles du pays de Galles lorsqu'il a décidé de lancer un certain nombre de projets pour tenter de faire tomber la digue d'Offa linguistique qui enserre le pays.

A l'automne 1996, simultanément à la remise de bourses de traduction et à l'événement « Le pays de Galles à Londres », au cours duquel l'actrice Sian Philips et Angharad Rees ont fait des lectures au Théâtre National et Jan Morris, Robin Llywelyn et Emyr Humphreys, entre autres, ont fait des lectures dans diverses librairies de la ville, un projet de développement de traduction littéraire, aujourd'hui nommé Llenyddiaeth Cymru / Welsh Literature Abroad (Littérature galloise à l'étranger) a été lancé. Ce projet est librement adapté du programme d'échanges littéraire irlandais, *Irish Literature Exchange* de Dublin et le programme NORLA en Norvège. Grâce à nos subventions à la traduction, des œuvres littéraires galloises sont traduites dans toutes sortes de langues parfois inattendues. Par exemple, le roman gallois proto-postmoderniste écrit par Caradog Prichard au début des années 1960, *Un Nos Ola Leuad*, vient de paraître dans une édition bilingue des Classiques Modernes de Penguin et a déjà été vendu à des éditeurs israélien, danois, allemand, espagnol, tchèque, français et américain.

Bien qu'on tende à présumer, tout au moins dans le cadre des études de littérature minoritaire, qu'on aura toujours tendance à traduire les auteurs dont l'œuvre s'accorde avec le courant dominant au détriment des écrivains qui expriment les tensions psychologiques d'un contexte minoritaire et qui ne seront pas traduits, mon expérience m'amène à penser différemment. En effet, si un éditeur est prêt à encourir des frais supplémentaires pour publier une traduction, ce ne sera certainement pas pour un ouvrage qu'on pourrait facilement trouver et publier à moindre frais dans sa propre langue. A cet égard, la particularité d'une bonne partie de la littérature galloise, par exemple le style très particulier de Wiliam Owen Roberts, de Robin Llywelyn et de Mihangel Morgan, la rend souvent plus intéressante pour les éditeurs étrangers qu'un certain genre de roman écrit en anglais qui pourrait avoir été publié à Aberystwyth, à New-York ou à Londres. Ce qui ne veut bien sûr pas dire que le roman anglo-gallois est condamné à un tel sort. Au contraire, j'espère qu'un des résultats du projet « Welsh literature Abroad » sera de réussir à persuader les éditeurs étrangers de considérer les écrits gallois en langue anglaise pour ce qu'ils sont et non pas à l'aide de critères londoniens. Des auteurs comme Christopher Meredith, avec ses trois romans fort originaux et très différents les uns des autres (de son roman post-industriel de 1988, *Shifts*, à son ouvrage le plus récent, *Sidereal time*, publié en 1998 en passant par sa perspective sur la fiction historique, *Griffi*, datant de 1991) tracent nettement leur propre voie sans se soucier de l'héritage du triangle du sud-est formé par Amis, Barnes et McEwan.

L'autre objectif de Llenyddiaeth Cymru Dramor / Welsh Literature Abroad, en rapport avec sa nouvelle base au Centre Mercator-Média à l'université du pays de Galles d'Aberystwyth, est de devenir le point de rencontre central de réseaux internationaux d'éditeurs, d'auteurs, de traducteurs et d'organisations littéraires. La Conférence Internationale Mosaique, qui s'est déroulée à l'automne dernier, a servi de tremplin pour plusieurs nouveaux projets dont un projet en partenariat visant à établir un prix littéraire européen pour les plus petits groupes linguistiques territoriaux au sein de l'Europe. Il s'agirait de récompenser non pas une œuvre littéraire particulière mais un auteur vivant pour un ensemble d'ouvrages littéraires écrits principalement dans la langue minoritaire. Un autre projet consiste à établir un réseau d'édition entre le pays de Galles, l'Irlande, la Finlande, la Lettonie, la Pologne, la Grèce, la France et la Catalogne au moyen duquel toute une série de romans placés sous le titre de travail « *La Nouvelle Europe* » seront publiés en versions traduites par les éditeurs participant au projet. Un financement sera recherché dans le cadre du futur fonds Culture 2000 ainsi que du programme Ariane.

Sioned Puw Rowlands

Toute personne ou organisation désireuse d'obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur ces projets ou sur le travail de Llenyddiaeth Cymru Dramor / Welsh Literature Abroad peut nous contacter à l'adresse suivante : Mercator, Prifysgol Cymru Aberystwyth / University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2AU; tél. : +44 1970 622 544; fax : +44 1970 622 190; snr@aber.ac.uk. Il est également possible de visiter notre site web : http:www.aber.a merwww/mosaic/

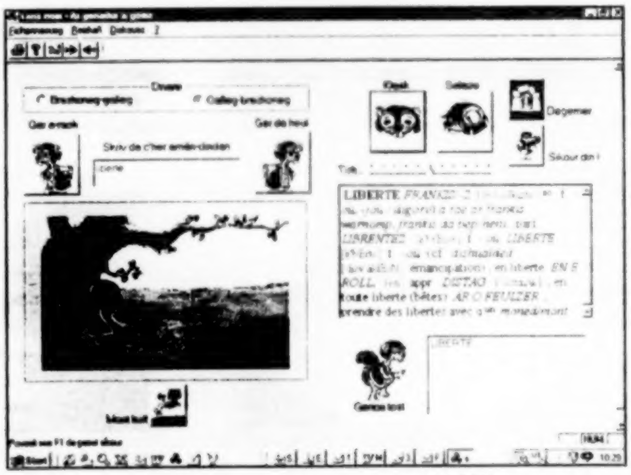
Saami Web
HTTP WWW.SAAM [illegible]

Langues minoritaires et informatique

Windows 98
euskaraz
Internet Explorer 4.0
Office 2000

Les projets associant les nouvelles technologies aux langues minoritaires se sont multipliés ces dernières années. Les avancées technologiques permettent de mettre au point de nouveaux outils pour l'enseignement, la promotion et la diffusion des langues minoritaires.

Le premier dictionnaire vocal en langue minoritaire sur CD-ROM vient ainsi d'être publié en breton. Il est le fruit d'une collaboration entre les éditions TES, le Centre de développement pédagogique, plusieurs instituts de recherche et de nombreux bénévoles. Basé sur le dictionnaire breton-français de Francis Favereau, ce CD-ROM permet de consulter le dictionnaire et d'entendre les différentes prononciations proposées pour chaque entrée de la partie breton-français. La partie vocale de ce CD-ROM a été réalisée à partir du moteur de synthèse de la parole MBROLA développé à l'université de Mons par T. Dutoit. Cette technique a déjà permis la réalisation de dictionnaires vocaux dans un certain nombre de langues de grande diffusion. La synthèse vocale est basée sur l'enregistrement des diphones, unités acoustiques couvrant les sons élémentaires d'une langue. Un corpus de mots sans signification (logatomes), comprenant les 3000 diphones du breton a été enregistré en studio par la chanteuse Annie Ebrel. Ce procédé permet de reconstituer par synthèse vocale la prononciation de dizaines de milliers de mots. Soutenu entre autres par l'Union européenne, ce travail a également permis à des chercheurs de plusieurs pays européens de confronter leurs expériences. Outre les relations avec l'université de Mons et le CSTR d'Edimbourg, les auteurs de ce CD-ROM ont collaboré avec G. O'Neil, professeur à l'Université de Limerick (Irlande) qui développe un projet similaire pour l'irlandais. TES et l'IRISA comptent également développer un logiciel de correction de prosodie, basé sur la répétition de phrases préenregistrées ainsi qu'une dictée entièrement automatisée, destinée à favoriser le travail des élèves en autonomie.



Ar genadur a gomz, dictionnaire vocal sur CD-ROM

La société Micro application, leader français du livre et du logiciel informatique avec plus de 2 millions de produits vendus chaque année vient par ailleurs de publier *Guidexpress Windows 98© e brezhoneg*, et *Ar Genrouedad Didorr*, premiers guides en langue bretonne dédiés à l'informatique. Tirés à 3000 exemplaires, ces ouvrages de 160 pages en couleurs ont été entièrement traduits en breton par le service de la langue bretonne de l'Institut culturel de Bretagne. Revendiquant « le droit de vivre sa culture », l'entreprise a choisi le breton pour ses premiers ouvrages en langue minoritaire, « à l'heure de la création de l'Europe et alors que les langues minoritaires européennes acquièrent une vraie légitimité », selon ses propres termes.

Windows 98
e brezhoneg

Dernier exemple de l'entrée des langues minoritaires dans le monde informatique, les versions basques des logiciels Windows 98 et Internet Explorer 4.0 sont en vente depuis le mois de décembre au Pays basque. La traduction de ces deux logiciels en basque fait suite à une convention passée entre le gouvernement basque et Microsoft au début de l'année 1998. L'accord prévoit également la traduction en basque de la suite Office 2000. Rappelons que Windows 95, la précédente version du système d'exploitation avait déjà fait l'objet d'une traduction. L'existence d'une version basque de ces logiciels revêt une importance considérable pour les utilisateurs. Lorsque Office sera disponible, les logiciels les plus fréquemment utilisés, du traitement de texte au courrier électronique, auront tous le basque pour langue principale. La plupart des échanges avec l'ordinateur se feront donc par l'intermédiaire du basque. La traduction de tels logiciels est particulièrement importante pour la création de nouveaux termes en langues minoritaires. Au centre de localisation de Microsoft, installé dans la banlieue de Dublin en Irlande, des dizaines de termes nouveaux sont ainsi créés chaque jour. Si l'essentiel des efforts portent principalement sur des langues majoritaires, des langues autres que le basque et le catalan, moins répandues dans certains pays, tels que le slovène ou le finnois sont également substituées à l'anglais au cours du processus de localisation.

Ces quelques exemples montrent que de nombreuses entreprises, souvent associées à des partenaires institutionnels, s'intéressent de plus en plus aux applications technologiques, voire aux perspectives de débouchés que suscitent l'ouverture du monde informatique aux langues moins répandues.

Yann Rivallain

Renseignements :

Ar geriadur a gomz, CD-ROM vocal, Editions Skol Vreizh, 20, rue de Kerscoff - 29600 Morlaix. Prix : 34 Euros (225FF).

Pour commander *Windows 98 e brezhoneg* et *Ar Genrouedad Didorr* : Micro Application, 20-22 rue des Petits-Hôtels, 75010 Paris, Tel : 01.53.34.20.18. Prix : 11 Euros (72 FF)

GO DDA MÊT!

« Les inventions les plus simples sont souvent celles qui connaissent les plus grands succès ! ». Ainsi s'est exprimé Elis-Thomas, alors Président du Welsh Language Board à l'occasion de l'annonce de la production de 10.000 exemplaires supplémentaires de CHEQUE*Mate*/SIEC-*Mêt*. Derrière ce nom énigmatique, se cache un document ingénieux, d'un format pratique, conçu pour se glisser à l'intérieur d'un chéquier et qui permet de rédiger en toutes lettres des sommes d'argent en gallois. Il a été inventé pour aider les locuteurs et les personnes qui étudient le gallois à rédiger leurs chèques dans cette langue et permettre à celles qui ne la connaissent pas de lire et d'accepter ces chèques. Il suffit de tirer sur la languette jusqu'à ce que le nombre recherché apparaisse dans le cadre et lire la somme en toutes lettres à sa droite. Il existe deux façons d'écrire les chiffres en gallois – la méthode traditionnelle et un système décimal plus récent. En retournant simplement cette languette, l'utilisateur peut opter pour l'une des deux méthodes.

CHEQUE*Mate*
SIEC-*Mêt*
NatWest
TSB
Banc Lloyds
Banc Midland

Fruit d'une collaboration exemplaire entre cinq banques de renom et le Welsh Language Board, quinze mille exemplaires de CHEQUE*Mate* ont été produits en avril 1997. Devant le succès considérable de l'opération, 10 000 copies supplémentaires ont été réalisées fin 1998. Outre le service rendu aux utilisateurs, CHEQUE*Mate* permet aux banques partenaires de faire connaître leur participation à cette opération et plus largement leur intérêt pour le gallois en apposant leur logo sur ce document.

Cette initiative devrait intéresser de nombreuses organisations de promotion des langues moins répandues et de nombreux instituts bancaires apportant déjà leur soutien aux langues minoritaires dans de nombreuses régions d'Europe. Une coopération entre plusieurs communautés afin de produire des versions de CHEQUE*Mate* dans d'autres langues moins répandues peut également être envisagée. Seule la languette intérieure nécessiterait une traduction et une impression séparées pour chaque langue. L'enveloppe extérieure, multilingue, pourrait aisément faire l'objet d'une coédition entre plusieurs communautés linguistiques sur le modèle des coopérations pour les livres de jeunesse, déjà initiées par le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues.

Yann Rivallain

EUSKARA

Davyth Hicks est assistant de conférence au département d'Etudes celtiques de l'Université d'Edimbourg et responsable de campagne au sein de la Société pour la langue cornique. Il mène des recherches sur le développement et la promotion des langues celtiques. Il nous livre son point de vue sur le développement de la langue basque :

De nouveaux chiffres en provenance de la Communauté autonome basque révèlent que l'enseignement par l'intermédiaire du basque enregistre une demande considérable et annoncent, si cette tendance est confirmée, la disparition à terme, de l'enseignement par l'intermédiaire de l'espagnol. Dans une région de la partie autonome du Pays basque, Gipuzkoa, le modèle d'éducation utilisant l'espagnol comme support, baptisé « Modèle A », est sur le point d'être abandonné car seulement trois personnes avaient opté pour ce modèle. On espère que cette évolution se traduira par une augmentation du nombre de locuteurs. Celui-ci est passé de 20 à 25% de la population depuis 1979, date d'obtention d'un certain degré d'autonomie. Ceci a uniquement été rendu possible par la volonté politique et les investissements réalisés par le gouvernement basque.

Parmi les 20% de personnes qui parlaient basque en 1979, peu pouvaient le lire ou l'écrire. Seulement 5% des enseignants du primaire parlaient la langue. Une des premières initiatives du nouveau gouvernement fut d'adopter une loi de programmation linguistique détaillée recensant les mesures à prendre pour restaurer la langue nationale. Un Conseil de la langue, assisté d'un secrétariat important, fut établi pour mettre en œuvre ces mesures.

Des programmes intensifs d'immersion linguistique (1500 heures) furent organisés afin de permettre aux enseignants d'acquérir une certaine aisance dans la langue. Fin 1987, 8 000 enseignants au total avaient été mis en congé de formation, tout en conservant leur salaire intégral, pour participer à des formations longues. En conséquence, 28% des élèves du primaire recevaient un enseignement par l'intermédiaire de la langue maternelle en 1987. 90 000 adultes suivaient des cours proposés par 1500 enseignants professionnels dans près de 500 centres. Le coût des formations a dépassé dix millions de livres en 1989. Ce travail a été soutenu par la publication de près de 200 manuels par an et de centaines de cassettes audio et vidéo. L'Université fédérale, qui compte 42.000 étudiants propose 25% de ses formations en basque. Des centaines d'ouvrages universitaires ont été publiés dans ce but. En prenant en charge les coûts énormes entraînés par cette évolution, le gouvernement basque a montré sa détermination à revivifier la langue après des années de répression sévère sous le régime franquiste. Singulièrement, les Basques doivent traiter avec deux Etats, leur région nord étant sous administration française. Dans la mesure où la France poursuit sa politique de génocide linguistique, le basque reste menacé dans cette région. Les chiffres en provenance du Pays basque sud montrent pourtant à quel point une politique linguistique cohérente et dynamique peut être efficace.

BIZKAIA
GIPUZKOA
LAPURDI
ZUBEROA
NAFARROA

Pour atteindre ces résultats, le gouvernement basque a nommé un ministre adjoint à la politique linguistique, au sein du ministère de la Culture du gouvernement. Il est chargé de la coordination et du suivi de la politique linguistique en faveur du basque ainsi que de la rédaction et de l'extension des critères linguistiques obligatoires dans l'administration publique basque par le gouvernement.

L'an passé, une commission de pilotage interdépartementale et interinstitutionnelle (incluant les trois ministères du gouvernement basque dont dépendent les organes de planification linguistique mentionnés, les trois conseils provinciaux et les conseils locaux des trois villes principales du Pays basque) a été créée pour analyser et optimiser les ressources financières consacrées à la normalisation linguistique. Si les résultats définitifs de l'étude menée par cette commission ne sont pas encore disponibles, il apparaît néanmoins que le budget consacré à la langue par tous les ministères et organismes qui participent à cette commission dépasse légèrement 80,5 millions d'Euros par an.

Dans les dernières années, les efforts ont porté sur la standardisation et la modernisation du basque, la mise en place d'un système d'enseignement bilingue, l'introduction du basque dans les médias, l'administration et les entreprises publiques

Les recherches menées ont permis d'identifier les principaux indicateurs de la situation sociolinguistique du pays ainsi que les forces et faiblesses du processus de normalisation linguistique. Dans les dernières années, les efforts ont porté sur la standardisation et la modernisation du basque, la mise en place d'un système d'enseignement bilingue, l'introduction du basque dans les médias, l'administration et les entreprises publiques et l'obtention d'un tableau exact de la situation sociolinguistique du pays. Les chiffres les plus significatifs concernent l'éducation. En 1976, seulement 4,7% des enseignants du primaire parlaient le basque. En 1996, ce pourcentage avait atteint 67%, ce qui reflète l'arrivée sur le marché du travail de ceux qui ont bénéficié d'un enseignement par l'intermédiaire du basque au cours des années 80. Les chiffres concernant l'enseignement des adultes, par l'intermédiaire des écoles baptisées «Euskaltegiak», sont tout aussi impressionnants. Elles ont dispensé 12,96 millions d'heures de cours en 1995-96, pour un total de 44 855 élèves, 2 039 enseignants et 160 écoles. A ces résultats viennent s'ajouter le développement du basque dans les médias et une utilisation en hausse dans l'administration publique. Le basque continuera à se développer car il est de plus en plus adopté par les jeunes.

Ces chiffres montrent que le basque est de plus en plus souvent la langue de la communauté et du foyer, tout particulièrement pour les jeunes. A titre d'exemple, la courbe de connaissance du basque chute de 65 % des plus de 65 ans à 33% des 25-34 ans, pour remonter à 38 % des 16-24 ans. Il s'agit de la classe d'âge ayant reçue un enseignement dans les années 80 depuis l'adoption du statut d'autonomie.

L'encouragement à la transmission familiale du basque est un des défis principaux à relever pour le gouvernement basque dans les années à venir. Parmi les autres objectifs : intensification des programmes et de l'enseignement aux adultes afin d'augmenter le nombre de nouveaux locuteurs ; amélioration des compétences de ceux qui ont appris le basque par le biais du système scolaire ; création progressive des conditions nécessaires à l'adaptation des organismes publics et privés aux besoins des nouvelles générations ; établissement d'un critère linguistique dans les politiques de subvention et de passation de contrats par les institutions publiques ; réévaluation de l'allocation des ressources, non seulement économiques, mais également humaines, pour garantir la viabilité de certains projets d'importance stratégique.

Après des années de déclin sous le régime fasciste de Franco, le nombre de locuteurs augmente et les nouveaux bascophones sont jeunes. La langue est de plus en plus utilisée dans la vie sociale et à la maison, ce qui est déterminant. Assurée du soutien d'un gouvernement et d'un système d'enseignement progressistes, disposés à mener des études et à investir dans les secteurs prioritaires, l'avenir s'annonce favorable pour la langue basque.

Davyth Hicks

Une grammaire scots

Ce manuel présente les caractéristiques grammaticales et idiomatiques de la langue scots en s'appuyant sur des exemples tirés de la littérature, de proverbes, chansons et langage parlé. Il constitue une précieuse source documentaire pour les enseignants et les étudiants. David Purses est un écrivain bien connu des amoureux de la langue scots et ex-éditeur de *Lalland*, la revue de la Société pour la langue scots, dont il a également été président. Il est également un auteur à succès et prolifique en langue scots.

L'objectif de cet ouvrage est d'aider les locuteurs à acquérir davantage de confiance et inciter les Écossais à utiliser la langue régulièrement au cours du prochain millénaire.

A Scots Grammar, Scots Grammar and Usage, David Purves, 1998. £ 7.99.

ISBN 0-85411-068-2

Colloque de Strasbourg

Les actes du colloque organisé par le Conseil de l'Europe les 26 et 27 mars 1998 à Strasbourg pour marquer l'entrée en vigueur de la Charte européenne pour les langues régionales ou minoritaires (lire C.B 14.3, Juin 98) viennent d'être publiés par les éditions du Conseil de l'Europe. L'objet de cette conférence était d'analyser la mise en application de la charte dans les sept pays qui l'avaient ratifiée à l'époque et d'effectuer un échange de vue sur la situation dans les autres Etats.

ISBN : 92-871-3774-9. Contact : Editions du Conseil de l'Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex. Versions en français et en anglais.

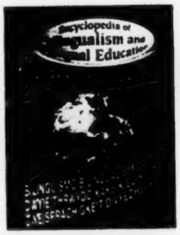
Argumentaire sur les Langues moins répandues

Est-il légitime de faire interdire l'utilisation de certaines langues par la loi? Existe-t-il des groupes linguistiques minoritaires mieux protégés au sein de l'Union Européenne? L'éducation assurée dans une langue moins répandues entraîne-t-elle des désavantages intellectuels pour l'enfant? En 80 questions et réponses, l'argumentaire aborde les thèmes d'interrogation les plus fréquents dans le domaine des langues moins répandues. Les textes et le droit internationaux sont souvent sollicités pour fournir des réponses aux questions. L'argumentaire fournit un bon outil tant pour les promoteurs des langues moins répandues parfois surpris par les questions de leurs détracteurs que pour le profane intrigué par les discours sur la diversité linguistique. Les auteurs de l'argumentaire sur les langues moins répandues, Jordi Bañeres et Miquel Strubell, respectivement documentaliste et directeur de l'Institut de Sociolinguistique Catalane à Barcelone, sont deux spécialistes de la planification linguistique.

La brochure est disponible en français et en anglais au prix de 5 Euros auprès du Bureau de Bruxelles.

Rencontres Est-Ouest : unité dans la diversité

En avril 1998, le Bureau européen pour les langues moins répandues et le Centre européen pour les langues vivantes avaient organisé un atelier sur le thème *Rencontres Est-Ouest, Unité dans la diversité*, à Graz en Autriche. Son objectif était de permettre aux personnes impliquées dans la promotion des langues moins répandues en Europe centrale et orientale de rencontrer leurs homologues de l'ouest de l'Europe. Le compte rendu de cet atelier est désormais disponible auprès du Centre européen pour les langues vivantes à l'adresse suivante : Centre européen pour les langues vivantes, Mozarthof, Schuberststrasse 29, A-8010 Graz. Autriche. Tél : +43-316-32 35 54. Fax : +43-316-32 21 57. E-mail : ecml@via.at



Encyclopedia of Bilingualism and bilingual Education

Cette nouvelle encyclopédie illustrée est un des ouvrages les plus exhaustifs concernant le bilinguisme disponibles à ce jour. Ce travail propose une présentation exhaustive de l'ensemble des thèmes liés au bilinguisme, du point de vue de l'individu et dans le cadre plus large d'une société. Il propose ensuite une description des situations de bilinguisme dans le monde et des systèmes d'enseignement bilingues. Loin de se contenter de dresser l'inventaire des différents systèmes, l'ouvrage s'interroge sur certains thèmes spécialisés tels que l'enseignement bilingue et les personnes handicapées ou encore sur les rapports entre le bilinguisme et les nouvelles technologies.

Cette encyclopédie aborde 117 thèmes principaux et dresse le profil de 228 langues dans le monde, illustré par de nombreuses illustrations et plusieurs dizaines de cartes.

Elle permet de mettre en valeur l'étendue du patrimoine linguistique de l'humanité tout en contribuant à faire tomber les stéréotypes qui sont souvent associés aux minorités linguistiques. Rédigé dans un style clair et accessible, cette encyclopédie constitue un outil de référence en matière de bilinguisme.

Encyclopedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education, Multilingual Matters Ltd, Frankfurt Lodge, Clevedon Hall, Victoria Hall, Clevedon, BS21 7HH, UK. ISBN 1-83539-362-1. 758 pages.

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